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The Doc's back in business!

SHOOT!

25p

25th JULY, 1981

Bobby Robson's transfer target

CHARLIE GEORGE'S lost cause

PETER WITHE Not at his best

Southampton's controversial Charlie George, seen here challenged by Brendon Batson of West Brom, is featured inside.

MAN. UNITED
Top of the Gates League

Keegan's charity cheer

TOO often footballers are criticised for adopting a single-minded, almost selfish attitude to life in which they are blamed for thinking only of themselves.

The same criticism is levelled by the public at tennis stars such as John McEnroe, top athletes such as Steve Ovett, professional cricketers like Geoff Boycott, snooker experts, jockeys, show-jumpers and competitors from many other sports.

No doubt there is some foundation for public opinion on this issue, but to believe that all sportsmen think only of "number one" is to under-estimate the attitudes of many of them.

Kevin Keegan, for one, is doing a great deal for others in spite of all the pressures on his time, both on and off the field.

His hush-hush visit to a Belfast prison was not carried out to win friends and influence the cause of Keegan Incorporated. The Southampton and England captain took time off to visit Northern Ireland after a long and difficult season in an effort to aid the cause of those hoping to bring peace to that troubled land.

SHOOT view!

There was no publicity until *after* the visit, clear evidence that Keegan did not make the trip to feather his nest.

Indeed, a week or two later the biggest run held in Britain cost Keegan £250.

He promised to give 50p towards a hospital charity for every man, and £1 for every woman, who beat him in the Great North Run.

Half a million Geordies cheered him on along the 13-mile course from Newcastle to South Shields, but when he reached the finish, 496 men and two women had passed that way, too.

"It's been worth every penny that it will cost me," said Keegan afterwards.

One of the competitors who sped past Keegan was Alan Robinson, in a wheelchair.

But Keegan simply smiled and carried on running...

The England captain has been involved in many other functions this summer, none of which will line his pocket to any great extent. He has given his time to charity because he wants to put something back into life after enjoying many of the privileges which are beyond the scope of the average man, woman and child.

Kevin Keegan and a whole host of sportsmen and women with the same self-sacrificing attitude seek no publicity for their generosity, but, hopefully, their contributions are taken into account by all those who seek to criticise them whenever the opportunity arises.

The Doc's back in business

Controversial and colourful Tommy Docherty has ended his six-month soccer exile in Australia to return to Third Division Preston North End. And in typical Docherty style, he confidently predicts that his presence at Deepdale will bring the fans from Old Trafford!

WHEN The Doc quit England after his sacking at Queens Park Rangers at the turn of the year, he vowed it would take a lot to lure him from his lucrative job with Sydney Olympic.

And he had some pretty harsh things to say about the state of English soccer at the time.

So what has brought about this sudden change of heart and prompted Docherty's return to the club where he enjoyed the best years of his playing days?

'I'd have walked back to United'

"It took a lot to get me back from Australia," he readily admits. "The money was good. They were ready to pay me more and I'd been

sooner, because Dave Sexton was a terrible flop.

"The standard of management over here is shocking at the moment. I'm convinced that you won't get a top job until you've been a failure.

"Dave Sexton was a colossal flop at United, and he's walked straight into a new job at Coventry. Gordon Lee was a flop at Everton and he's had four or five offers since he left Goodison. With all due respect to Alan Durban, he did a workmanlike job at Stoke, no more, and he's got one of the best

jobs in football at Sunderland now.

"I thought Arfon Griffiths did well at Wrexham — and he's been replaced by Mel Sutton, who was going to get the sack from the coaching staff. So he's another flop who has landed on his feet."

'I deserved the sack at Villa'

Strong stuff from Docherty. But he includes himself in that same

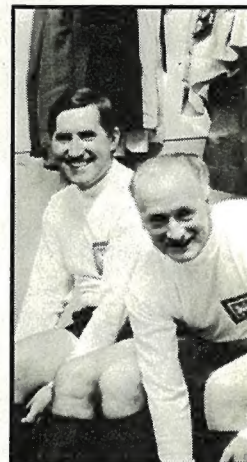
A PRESTON



LEFT: Happy days for Tommy Docherty at Manchester United as he celebrates his side's success in the 1977 F.A. Cup Final with Jimmy Nicholl and his former assistant Tommy Cavanagh.

BELOW LEFT: Dave Sexton, Docherty's successor at Old Trafford who has come in for criticism from The Doc for the way he handled Manchester United.

RIGHT: Smiles all round as Docherty pulls on his Preston shirt once again for a charity match with former Deepdale team-mates (from left) Frank O'Farrell, Tom Finney and Willie Cunningham.



sounded out about the national team manager's job.

"To be honest, only Manchester United or Preston could have brought me back.

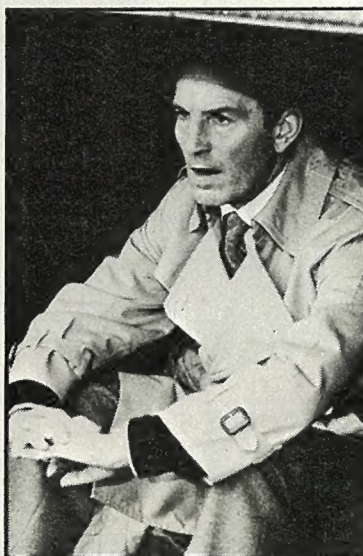
"I would have walked from Australia for another chance at United, but I knew Martin Edwards wouldn't ask me. There was no way he could have, because of the circumstances I left in and because he knows I wouldn't be a 'yes man'.

"But I would have done a better job there than anywhere else.

'Sexton — a colossal flop'

"I don't know how they'll do under Ron Atkinson, but it was clear they had to sack Dave Sexton.

"They should have done it much



category, admitting that he deserved to get the sack after a poor run of results while he was in charge of Aston Villa.

But he denies that his crimes at Manchester United or Queens Park Rangers merited his removal from power, and now he is back to prove his worth with Preston.

"I'll bring some pride back to this club, and no one will work harder to make sure the place is buzzing," he continues.

'Soccer with a smile'

"We'll get a lot of Manchester United's fans over here next season, because those people like the Tommy Docherty way of football.

"We will play soccer with a smile again. That is the only way to fill the grounds.

"The fans are fed up with tactical battles which don't bring excitement. The game has got to entertain, and that is what Preston will do."

Even now, Docherty is still unable to hide his love for Preston North End, the former greats of the game who are currently striving to recover from the effects of relegation from the Second Division last season.

"My ten years as a player at Deepdale were the happiest I can remember," he says.

"I joined them from Celtic in 1949 and they enabled me to go right to the top and win 25 caps for my country."

'Happy Deepdale'

"There was also the sheer enjoyment of playing in a good team and in a good environment. That dressing room at Deepdale with Tom Finney and Willie Cunningham and the others was the happiest I've ever known.

"I would never have moved on to Arsenal if it wasn't for a row

with manager Cliff Britton. I would have happily finished my career here.

"It's been great since coming back. From the day I arrived people have been wishing me well and my arrival has stimulated interest in the club.

"The local paper certainly won't be short of headlines while I'm here. Nobody will ignore us, that's for sure.

"I'm grateful to Preston for giving me this opportunity when others have shied clear, and I'm confident about the future."

'I'm going to buy — and sell'

"I'll be bringing players in and out as I always have done, but not on the scale that, say, Terry Venables has done at Q.P.R. He's spent a fortune and achieved nothing, so he's another flop in my book.

"The most I have ever spent on a player was £350,000 for Tony

Currie, but against that I made two million quid for Rangers by selling Clive Allen and Paul Goddard.

"People forget the better buys I made. I signed Dave Watson for Rotherham at a cost of £1,000, and bought Stevie Coppel for £45,000. That's what buying is all about."

Not surprisingly, Docherty's eye for a bargain was quick to spot the talent of Sydney Olympic's 19-year-old captain Peter Katholos, who could soon be signing on at Deepdale.

"The only way he won't make it in this country is if the plane crashes on the way over," quips Docherty. "Craig Johnston isn't the only Australian who can play football."

Docherty has also been linked with Gordon Hill and David McCreery, former Manchester United and Q.P.R. stars now playing in America.

Former United stars Stuart Pearson and Stewart Houston have also been sounded out by Docherty about a possible move to Preston.

'My Promise'

All are the kind of player The Doc loves to encourage. And all are players who can entertain and bring the missing fans pouring back through the turnstiles.

"I can't wait for the new season to start," beams Docherty. "I'm not going to make any predictions, because that would be foolish, but I promise that you'll be hearing a lot about Preston North End, and that's a good start."

THE DOC'S CAREER

Started at Celtic, joining Preston in 1949. He gained a Second Division Championship medal in 1951, and moved on to Arsenal in 1958, finally retiring in 1962. Gained 25 full caps for Scotland. Appointed Chelsea manager in 1962, and five years later took over at Rotherham. In 1968 he lasted just 28 days in charge of Q.P.R. before taking over at Aston Villa. Left to manage Portuguese team FC Porto before appointed Scotland national team boss in 1972, steering them towards the 1974 World Cup Finals, but having relinquished the job by then to become manager at Manchester United. Led United to the Second Division Championship in 1975 and the F.A. Cup in 1977, leaving later that year to take charge at Derby County. Moved back to Q.P.R. in May, 1979, but was sacked at the beginning of 1981 when he took charge of Sydney Olympic until the recent opportunity to succeed Nobby Stiles as Preston boss.

SHAKE-UP

—Docherty style



YOUR first experience of anything — good or bad — is something you're destined never to forget. I have instant recall of my particular "football firsts": most of them magic moments when I've seen the other side of the moon, but a few still as painful as an aching tooth.

I was filled with a mixture of excitement and apprehension when I made my League debut in the mid-60's for Scunthorpe United in the Third Division when I was called upon to deputise for the injured regular 'keeper Geoff Sidebottom.

We were at home to Swansea, one of the best teams in the Division with stars like winger Ivor Allchurch in their line-up.

It was a wet, depressing day, but we were well pleased to come off with a 1-1 draw.

It was as an Irons' player I made my first big mistake in goal, the original Clemence clanger.

The game was a local derby, in my second season, away to Grimsby Town, and we were hammered.

pared with Scunthorpe's Old Show Ground. There was every facility, from a sumptuous players' lounge to a treatment room equipped with the latest healing devices.

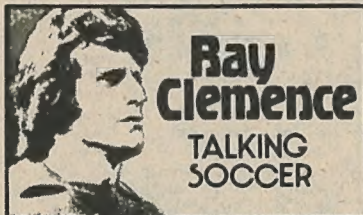
But what caught my eye most was the Anfield pitch, approached by a tunnel with the intimidating "This is Anfield" sign at its entrance, and the famous Kop terracing where the Liverpool faithful stand.

Although then-manager Bill Shankly had intimated that I would soon take over from 'keeper Tommy Lawrence, it was in fact a long time before I got my chance to play for the first team.

Ray's first sight of Anfield was one of the most memorable moments of his career.



'MY FOOTBALL FIRSTS~ GOOD AND BAD'



Ray Clemence
TALKING SOCCER

We were already 5-0 down just before half-time when I ran out of my area to a ball and instead of kicking it safely into touch, as I would now, tried to keep it in play by kicking down the wing.

Unfortunately I used my right foot, which at that time was strictly for standing on, and my miskick landed at the feet of their winger, who calmly lofted it into the empty net.

The day I signed for Liverpool and caught my first sight of Anfield was a real red letter one packed with vivid impressions.

Everything was giant size com-

This was in a League Cup-tie at Anfield against Swansea Town — it's amazing how the Welsh figure so prominently in my career — on a wet and windy night.

Ten minutes after the kick-off, though, I found myself in a nightmare.

I still suffered from the weakness of being a poor kicker with my right foot, something the training staff later cured through hours of practice, and the big Swansea centre-forward of the time, David Gwyther, exploited it.

Whenever I got the ball he stood in front of me so I couldn't use my left foot. Consequently I was forced to throw the ball out.

Charlie George shoots the winning goal for Arsenal in the 1971 F.A. Cup Final, assisted by a Larry Lloyd deflection.

Unfortunately the gale force wind meant I could only make around 35 yards at the most.

I became more and more unsettled. And a voice from the crowd in the Anfield Road End in the second-half didn't help. "Take an early bath, Clemence!"

Luckily I kept a clean sheet and we ran out 2-0 winners.

My first honour at Liverpool was a medal for helping to win the Central League Championship in 1967-68, and I had to wait until 1973 to pick up my first Championship medal with the first team, something I shared with Kevin Keegan and John Toshack.

It's the ambition of every player to appear for his club at Wembley in a Final, and mine came in 1971, although it ended not in glory but

disappointment.

Like several others in the Liverpool line-up the occasion proved too big, too awe-inspiring, and we just didn't get going.

But I still believe that I would have saved the shot in extra-time from Charlie George that gave Arsenal victory by 2-1 if the ball hadn't taken a deflection off Larry Lloyd.

International

A bonus of playing for a club like Liverpool is it gives you the chance of international football. Within three months of joining, I was selected for the England Under-23's.

No prizes for guessing the opposition. It was Wales, at Swansea, and we won 2-1.

I had to wait until 1972 for my full debut, again against Wales. This time at Ninian Park, where we won 1-0.

The World Cup qualifying return game marked my first outing with England at Wembley. We drew 1-1, with my Liverpool team-mate John Toshack putting the ball past me.

So as I sit here outside the holiday villa I've rented in Marbella, typing my column, my mind begins to dwell on two personal future football firsts.

Playing for England in the World Cup Finals — and turning out for a new club at the start of next season.



Ray Clemence

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They're made to the same high standards as all Winfield fishing tackle.

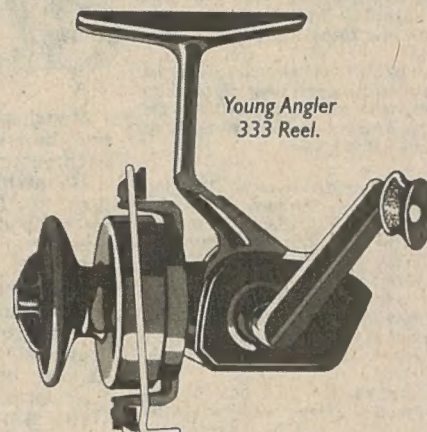
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Newcomer Float Fishing Pack

In this you get 200m of nylon line. Three floats. Four division shot dispenser. And a pack of six Mustad hooks to nylon.

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A skirted fixed spool reel for the newcomer to coarse fishing. Line capacity 240 yds x 4½ lbs.



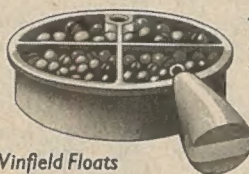
Young Angler
333 Reel.

Young Angler Float Fishing Pack

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WOOLWORTH

And Woolco

SHEFFIELD UNITED fans have given their new-look club a massive vote of confidence — with more season ticket sales to date than at this time last season. Secretary Dick Chester says: "The reaction to our ticket offer has been tremendously encouraging."

United, relegated to the Fourth Division, have reduced prices.

A NEW Under-18 League for Somerset is likely to be given the go-ahead. So far Bath City, Yeovil Town, Bridgwater, Taunton, Cladown, Frome, Mangotsfield, Shepton Mallet and Minehead have shown interest. The competition would be run under floodlights.

BRUCE GROBBELAAR, the 23-year-old goalkeeper destined to take over at Liverpool from England's Ray Clemence, likes to be known as "Jungleman."

He was born in Durban, South Africa, but has been capped for Rhodesia and now has an ambition to help Zimbabwe reach the World Cup Finals.

Bruce, who has been impressive playing for Liverpool reserves since being signed from Vancouver Whitecaps last season, loves the jungle and during the close season is on safari in his native lands.

REMEMBER Brandon United, the tiny club from a County Durham village who amazed everybody by reaching the First Round of the F.A. Cup two years ago before finally being beaten by Fourth Division Bradford City?

They found themselves in the wilderness a few months later when they dropped out of their League, only to find themselves rejected by the Wearside League.

Now, after a season in a local football league, they have been accepted by the Wearside and most of the players from their Cup run are back with them.

JOHN Gidman could be on the move from Everton shortly as new manager Howard Kendall plans a clear-out.

Gidman (right), the country's most expensive full-back at nearly £800,000 when he joined Everton from Aston Villa two years ago, is believed to be unsettled, and a move would suit both parties.

John Barton, who cost a modest £25,000 from Worcester City, is emerging as the first-choice right-back now he has recovered from a broken ankle.

Barton, who's contract at Goodison Park has expired, is thinking over new terms and is expected to stay.

GIDMAN OUT O'KEEFE IN

Manchester City and Spurs will both be interested in Gidman if he becomes available.

Meanwhile, Kendall has special plans for Eamonn O'Keefe, Everton's Republic of Ireland international.

O'Keefe, 27, was a big hit on the club's recent tour of Japan playing just behind the front two strikers.

It is a role that O'Keefe has not previously filled for Everton, and Kendall has borrowed the idea from Ipswich Town, who use Eric Gates in much the same way.



O'Keefe (right) was a £25,000 signing from non-League Mossley two years ago but has yet to fully establish himself at Goodison Park. This may be his chance.

NEWS DESK

Compiled by
BILL DAY



BOURNEMOUTH centre-forward Dean Mooney will always be grateful to Dean Court boss Dave Webb.

He says: "I want to thank Dave for giving me the chance to prove Orient wrong by letting me go in 1976."

Mooney, who made his League debut for Orient way back in March, 1975, along with another new boy, Glenn Roeder, a star with Q.P.R. for the last three years, had experience in both Sweden and Norway before joining Bournemouth last December.

ONE of the bonuses for Wolves manager John Barnwell was the success of John Tensdale.

The young Scot made an immediate impression at Molineux and encouraged by this move across the border for new talent the Wolves boss is now casting his net in the same direction.

The player he would like is 18-year-old Ally McCoist. The only problem is that he is not the only manager showing an interest in the young St Johnstone striker.

Spurs have also been to have a look and the Londoners were also favourably impressed. Expect developments...

AFTER six months with West German club VfL Wolfsburg, Eamonn Gregg has returned to Eire. The former international full-back has now joined Dundalk.



THE TOUR THAT CAUSED THE RUMPUS. Sammy Nelson, Arsenal's Northern Ireland full-back, takes part in a coaching session in Soweto, near Johannesburg, South Africa. Nelson was one of 14 British players to visit South Africa on a tour which was called-off after protests from FIFA, the Football Association, and their League clubs. If the all-action style of the boy challenging Nelson is a pointer to the talent out there, League clubs might well decide to go scouting in that direction.

Cummins gets all-clear

SUNDERLAND's Stan Cummins is back in summer action for Seattle Sounders — and that has pleased everybody at Roker Park.

They were shocked by reports that Cummins, playing in America for the summer, was in plaster because of a leg injury.

But the injury was not as serious as first thought and he was soon playing again.

Nevertheless, new Sunderland manager Alan Durban was unhappy to find that Cummins, Shaun Elliott (also at Seattle) and goalkeeper Barry Siddall (Vancouver Whitecaps) were playing in American football.

IPSWICH have been honoured by having a top racehorse named after them.

Captain Marcos Lemos, the Greek shipping tycoon and one of Britain's best-known racehorse owners, is a staunch Ipswich fan and attends their home games whenever he can. Now he has named one of his two-year-olds 'Come On The Blues'. The horse is at the Newmarket stables of trainer Clive Brittain and is confidently expected to win a few races this season. That will please the Ipswich players... Alan Brazil, Mick Mills, Eric Gates and Paul Mariner have all been to visit the horse and will no doubt be having a flutter on him whenever he runs.

The Persuader

BOLTON's new manager is George Mulhall, the former Bradford City boss who was brought back to Burnden Park six months ago by sacked manager Stan Anderson.

Bolton have had an unhappy two years, imminent relegation from the First Division was preceded by the sacking of Ian Greaves, and last season Anderson got the chop as his team slumped perilously close to the Second Division relegation zone.

So Mulhall freely admits: "It's going to be a difficult job." But he adds, "There are a lot of talented players here, and if I can persuade players like Peter Reid (left) not to leave, then we have a good chance of doing very well in the Second Division. I can promise the fans we'll play positively."



BOOK'S BACK

SACKED Manchester City manager Tony Book is back working at Maine Road. Book, who got the chop ten months ago along with Malcolm Allison, is now City's assistant chief scout, working alongside Ken Barnes... father of England winger Peter Barnes.

SCOTLAND recorded an international football first when their Under-16 squad beat Iceland 3-1. It was the first match ever staged at that level.

Hibbitt's coaching hopes

NEWCASTLE's Terry Hibbitt, forced to quit full-time football because of a knee injury, is looking for a coaching job.

And he is prepared to serve his apprenticeship in non-League football if a League club doesn't make him an offer.

"It is also possible that I might be able to continue playing in a non-League team," says the former Leeds and Birmingham midfielder.

"My knee won't stand up to full-time training, but it should be okay if I train twice a week and play on Saturday."

Northern Premier League club Gateshead are among the teams who have already said they are interested in Hibbitt.

Briefly...

● Scottish clubs are showing more than a casual interest in Queens Park Rangers' new synthetic pitch. No doubt they are awaiting the outcome of the warning from Alan Gowling, chairman of the English Players Association, who said that the £320,000 surface could pose problems for the London club next season.

● Les Mutrie, the Hull striker, is out to prove Carlisle wrong. Mutrie, snapped up by Hull last season after he had starred against them for Blyth

Spartans, had a year as a professional at Carlisle before being given a free transfer.

He could do Hull a power of good in the coming season as they bid to get out of the Fourth Division at the first attempt. He has played for England as a semi-professional.

● Bristol City striker Chris Garland has been such a hit in Sweden that the Vasteras club have asked him to return next season.

"I haven't made up my mind what to do because it's a long way off," says Garland, 31.

He has another 12 months of his contract to run with City.

● Denis Murphy, an 18-year-old midfielder with Plymouth, has plenty to live up to at Home Park.

His elder brother, Donal, is a regular with the Plymouth first team, having previously seen service with Coventry and Torquay and having a loan period at Millwall.

Denis, who joined Plymouth as a professional last September, has had experience with Shamrock Rovers.

● "There is no shortage of players in this country. It's just that we don't let them play the game as it should be played" — Tommy Docherty, at his first Press conference after accepting the manager's job at Preston.

McAndrew's SHOCK TRANSFER REQUEST

MIDDLESBROUGH skipper Tony McAndrew has shaken the club with a transfer request. McAndrew, a central defender with a hard-as-nails approach on the field, revealed: "I am upset over the departure of John Neal."

But McAndrew did not make a hasty request after manager Neal left in a behind-the-scenes shake-up. He waited for a month before he told manager Bobby Murdoch of his feelings.

The former Scottish youth international had a close relationship with Neal, who is now in charge of Chelsea. Neal appointed him club captain when Stuart Boam moved to Newcastle two years ago.

McAndrew poured cold water on the suggestion he could be lined up to rejoin Neal at Stamford Bridge. "I know that is what the cynics may say, but London is the last place I want to go. I thought John did a good job at Middlesbrough. I was sorry to see him go. I believe he will do well at Chelsea."

NORTHERN IRELAND manager Billy Bingham has established a remarkable 35-year playing and managerial link with his country's representative teams.

During this lengthy spell, Billy was capped at schoolboy, Youth, Inter-League and full international level. His 56-cap all-time appearance record for a Northern Ireland forward has stood for almost 18 years.



"I know people will say I should not get involved in club politics, but I feel it is the right time for me to move on. Yet I feel a little guilty over asking for a move to put pressure on new manager Bobby Murdoch. I have tremendous respect for Bobby. I idolised him back home when he played for Celtic."

Murdoch hopes McAndrew will become settled again when pre-season training begins.

GARNET CROMIE, a 17-year-old midfielder signed by Burnley last November, is a great James Dean fan. He says: "I collect anything to do with the late film star."

Cromie, who played in the Irish League with Crusaders, played 12 times for Northern Ireland schoolboys. He scored twice for Crusaders when making his League debut in August last year.

He was a building labourer before turning professional with the English Third Division club.

Cardiff for First Division

THE Football League — Rugby League partnership launched by Fulham last season moves up-market to a Second Division club — Cardiff City — in the autumn. The current betting in South Wales is that the famous soccer club will not get near promotion... but its Rugby League new partners will go straight into the First Division!

"That has to be our aim, just like Fulham," says manager David Watkins who is one of the great post-War stars of British Rugby, in both Union and League codes. His colleague Richie Morgan knows that his first priority is to cling on to that precious Second Division status preserved last season by a goal difference hairsbreadth.

But will the Rugby League, in a nation dedicated to the oval ball, become the number one sport at Ninian Park? "No, it will not," rules Watkins. "That is not the aim at all."

ONE of the most persistent letter-writers in the game must be Eamonn Deacy of Aston Villa. Deacy wrote to the League Champions 12 times bagging for a trial. Eventually they agreed and after a week at Villa Park Ron Saunders offered the young Galwayman full-time terms.

Tiler retires

BRIAN TILER, former Rotherham United and Aston Villa captain, is retiring from soccer in the autumn.

Brian, 38, is coach with San Diego Sockers in the North American Soccer League. Some people thought he might seek to manage Rotherham, before Emlyn Hughes took over.

"Wasn't interested," says Tiler, who plans to run a sports advisory service for professional sportsmen and women.

Barnwell's choice

THE Peterborough influence is in evidence at Wolves these days.

Following the departure of Richie Barker to Stoke City, the Wolves boss, John Barnwell, has appointed Ian Ross as his first team coach.

Jim Barron is to take over as second team coach and the new behind the scenes set-up will begin working together over the next few weeks.

Barnwell, Ross and Barron have all had spells at Peterborough United and the Wolves boss feels that he will derive more benefit from working with people he knows.

ALL CHANGE

ARBROATH'S left-back Derek Rylance has been successful in his bid for reinstatement to the junior grade in the new season. He will be appearing with the Perth Club Kinnoull.

Former colleague Jim Donald, who was released at the end of the season by Arbroath, is also going back to the Junior ranks. The right winger has been signed by Rutherglen Glenciar.

Several other well known senior faces have made similar plans for a "step down".

Ian Duff, formerly with Celtic, will play for the Perth junior combination Jeanfield Swifts, and former St. Johnstone and Brechin centre-half Danny Scullion will be joining the Glasgow junior side Pollock.

JAN MOLLER, Bristol City's goalkeeping giant, is still hoping to win honours in English football to add to those he gained in his native Sweden.

Moller, signed from Malmo last December, won the Swedish Championship three times and the Cup four, but now finds himself with a Bristol City team relegated to the Third Division.

A move could be on the cards, especially with Moller eager to enhance his international standing.

He is also extremely keen to play at Wembley.



CITY SLICKERS Dave Bennett and Tommy Caton make a handsome couple in their silk summer shirts. Unfortunately, Manchester City's stars haven't had the weather to match their dress.



Kevin backs 'Superkids' scheme

FOOTBALL is one of the tests in a new "Superkids" youth competition which Kevin Keegan reckons could turn into a "monster."

The England and Southampton captain is confident that the new competition, sponsored by Nabisco, has the potential to become one of the most successful organised events ever launched.

"Superkids" tests ability over a range of ten different challenges, designed to test agility, skill and fitness in disciplines as different as football, sprinting, cycling, swimming and netball.

The competition gives boys and girls an equal chance. Boys and girls need not be particularly talented at sport to take part. All are welcome.

Lawrie McMenemy, a key figure in the launch of the scheme, says: "There's too much emphasis on winning, not enough on enjoyment. Superkids will bring back the fun."

Kevin Keegan, who, like McMenemy, the Southampton manager, was in at the start of the scheme, reveals that 250 children and teachers attended a Superkids session he helped with at Gateshead.

Final word from Lawrie McMenemy: "This scheme is truly for all; fat, thin, ugly, talented, untalented... Everyone is welcome."

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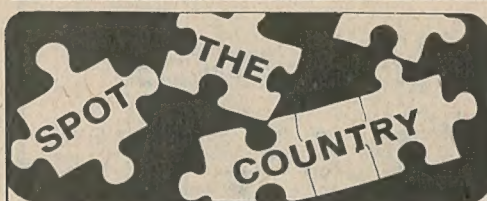
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CHARLIE George's prodigious talents blazed like a comet across the First Division stage when he played his first full season of League football in the 1969-70 season.

The experts reckoned he had the lot. Pace, explosive shooting, immaculate distribution, ice-cold temperament in the most frenzied moments of a game, and a 'killer' instinct guaranteed to help his team if scores were level and the ball landed at his feet in a goalscoring position in the dying seconds of a game.

From the moment Charlie made his League debut for Arsenal against Everton, on August 9, 1969, it was clear to the Highbury fans that Charlie was something special.

His arrogance on the ball, flamboyant skills and vision in spotting an opening were there for all to see when he signed as an apprentice for Arsenal at the same time as Alf

Ramsay was building his England team for the 1966 World Cup campaign.

Bob Wilson, also at Highbury, was convinced that the Islington-born striker would win many England caps.

"Rarely have I seen so much potential in a youngster as in Charlie," says the former Scotland and Arsenal goalkeeper.

Charlie, darling of the North Bank, scored the winning goal in Arsenal's 2-1 victory over Liverpool in the 1971 F.A. Cup Final; and won a League Championship medal in the same season to add to the Fairs Cup winners' medal he had gained against Anderlecht the previous season.

General opinion of most experts at that time was that Charlie George would bring the same genius to England's attack that Bobby Charlton had accomplished before him.

They were strikingly different in character — Charlton happy to be a public figure, George preferring solitude when the crowds had gone home — but as players there were similarities in style.

Both could unleash the unexpected; both could conjure goals from nothing; both had the vision to identify a defensive weakness and exploit it cruelly; both had sufficient pace from a standing start to leave a defender for dead; both were bless-

Anderlecht's defence under siege — Charlie George style! A Fairs Cup winners medal was his first honour.



CHARLIE GEORGE

- A genius England lost

sed with the rarest commodity of all — genius.

There the similarities ended. For the tragic difference between Bobby Charlton and Charlie George is that Charlie never made it.

Potential

His fans can argue that Charlie's career has been studded with success at Arsenal, Derby County, and Southampton, but his contemporaries at Highbury, will tell you that somewhere down the line in the 13 years since he signed as a professional, the rich potential has not been truly fulfilled.

They will say that Charlie George should have won more caps than Kevin Keegan, that he should have featured in England's attempts to reach the 1974, 1978 and 1982 World Cup Finals.

It never happened.

Instead, Charlie became embroiled in controversy off the pitch. He became yet another major disappointment to the coaches responsible for polishing the skills of players when they first come into the game.

Charlie probably blew his final chance when Ron Greenwood selected him in February, 1978 for the England B team and he declined. Charlie made it clear at the time that he wasn't prepared to be put on trial.

He said: "I'm available to be

picked for the FULL England side. If I am, then I will give all I've got. If not, then I won't cry or lose any sleep over it. I don't have to start playing in trial matches at my age."

Two years before that, on September 8, 1976, he made his only full England appearance against the Republic of Ireland at Wembley. Don Revie, England's manager, played him out of position on the left flank, and Charlie suffered the humiliation of being pulled off after an hour. Charlie George off, Gordon Hill on.

"I was a bit sick about it, but I have never shouted the odds about it," he says.

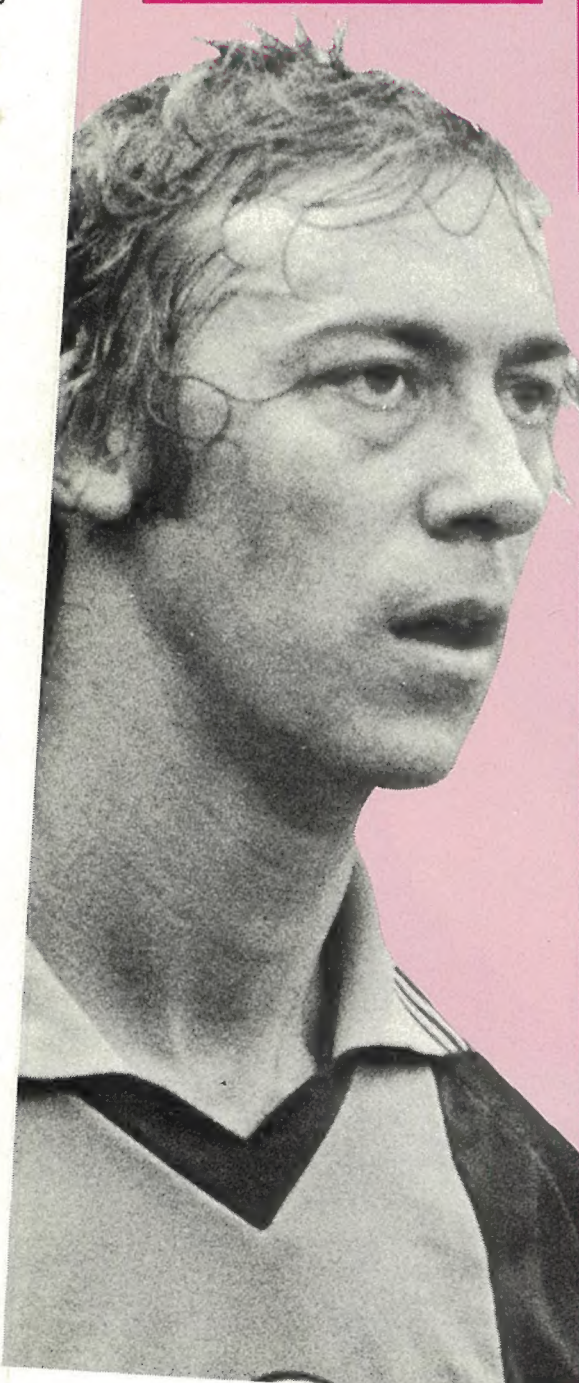
What does annoy him is the "rebel" tag he has been given. He rejects criticisms like that — and rightly so. He is not a "bad boy", despite his public image.

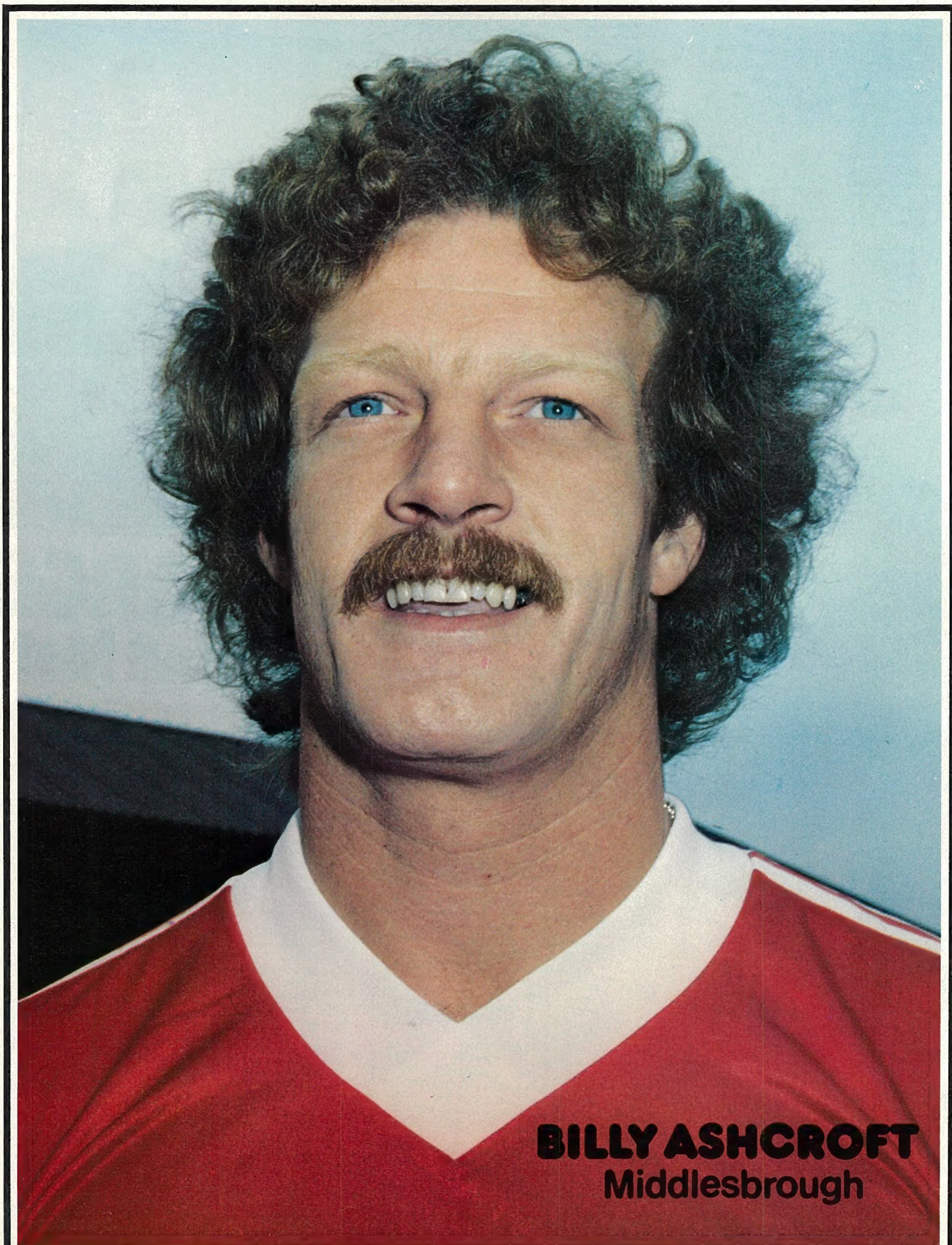
Should he have snubbed Greenwood? No. He should have buried his pride and turned out for England B... and played so well that the England manager would have had no option but to present him with his second England cap.

That's where Charlie George has gone wrong... but the real sadness is that England's failure to recognise his talents does not worry him unduly.

He simply carries on playing League football and sending a shiver of excitement across the terraces.

Charlie should never have settled for that, but that was the path he preferred to tread.





BILLY ASHCROFT
Middlesbrough

SHOOT!

**KEITH
BERTSCHIN**
Birmingham



SHOOT!

EACH season soccer nuggets of pure gold are unearthed, youngsters who prove they can do a man's job in the hectic, hurly burly of today's non-stop game.

Dundee United manager Jim McLean has already gone on record as saying: "The Premier Division is so fierce and competitive that it sometimes makes it difficult for you to throw a youngster in at the deep end.

"But if a player is good enough he must get his chance even in those frantic circumstances."

Jim McLean, number two to Jock Stein on the Scottish international scene, should know what he is talking about after the bright babes he has introduced to football in recent years. They include David Narey, Davie Dodds, Paul Sturrock, Billy Kirkwood and Ralph Milne with the likes of Andy Gray (Wolves) and Ray Stewart (West Ham) already making their impact in the English game.

However, there is little doubt who was the biggest find of them all in Scotland last season . . . that title surely goes to whizz kid Charlie Nicholas.

The Celtic raider shot down all his rivals as he blasted out goal after goal in a memorable debut season.

The likeable, chirpy Nicholas is swift to hand out the plaudits to his team-mates. He says: "It's easy to score goals in this company.

CHARLIE NICHOLAS

— 'Easy to score goals'

"My colleagues are all so unselfish. They work hard for you throughout the game and are always there with a word of advice or encouragement when it is needed.

"Frank McGarvey and I scored 50 goals between us and we were fairly happy with that, but we can do better and we will be working on things for the future.

"I just hope I can continue to play as well as I can for Celtic. Anything else will be a bonus. Holding onto my first team place will be my main aim."

Actually, it was a good year for Celtic manager Billy McNeill when it came to bringing through some raw youngsters and shaping them into mature first team players.

Goalkeeper Pat Bonner took over from Englishman Peter Latchford at the start of the season and stayed there, doing so well that he eventually won his first full cap for Eire in a close season match in Poland.

Alas for Pat, there was no fairy tale ending to his remarkable season . . . Eire lost that one 3-0!

But that was one of only a

SCOTLAND'S GOLD NUGGETS



PAUL McSTAY — Staggering maturity

handful of dark clouds on Bonner's year to remember. He even won a 'Save the Season' competition organised by a Scottish television programme and judged by Jock Stein for one fine effort against Dundee United.

Mark Reid, John Weir and Michael Conroy were all given extended runs and accomplished

themselves. Now we are told to watch out for 16-year-old Paul McStay. He's an exciting midfielder who is currently playing for the Scottish Under-18 side.

Andy Roxburgh, the Scots Pro Youth team boss and Director of Coaching, says: "Paul's maturity is quite staggering. Honestly, you should have seen him in the dressing room during the close season when we were waiting to play England in the European Under-18 Championships.

"He was mixing with boys older than him and players who were already first team regulars with their sides. But he was the calmest of them all.

'Losing Side'

"Paul told me he had played against England on three other occasions at various levels and had still to be on the losing side.

"At the end of the game in West Germany it was four out of four for Paul . . . Scotland won that one 1-0 with a goal from St. Johnstone's Ally McCoist."

Rangers' form was fairly erratic last season and it hardly afforded manager John Greig the opportunity to introduce young players while he was also dealing in the transfer market.

However, one young Ranger to look out for in the near future is winger Billy Davies, whose ball control is simply amazing according to first team players at Ibrox.

A year ago Derek Johnstone



Dundee United's Ralph Milne (right) stoops to head past Partick's international keeper Alan Rough.



BILLY DAVIES

— Praised by
World Cup star

said: "Once Billy builds himself up and gets used to his surroundings we will see a truly gifted player. He doesn't so much get the ball to talk, but coax it into making speeches!"

"When we played in Canada in the close season he so impressed Pietro Anastasi, of Ascoli, that the former Italian World Cup and Juventus star presented Billy with his jersey after the game.

"That gesture was much appreciated and I believe a lot more plaudits will come the way of this youngster."

Another attacker who got rave notices during his first team appearances was St. Mirren's Alan Logan, who earned himself the title as 'Super Sub' with his remarkable performances after coming on as 12th man.

It will be interesting to see how Logan will team up with Mr. Goals' partner Doug Somner in the new season alongside recent buys Tony Fitzpatrick, the former Love Street captain who returned from Bristol City, and unpredictable, but

with their disastrous run of injuries and ill fortune, but manager Alex Ferguson points out sternly: "I was forced to bring in young players and I don't think the experiences will have done them any harm.

"They will be better players after what they have been through. We'll see the best of them now."

Ian Angus, Neale Cooper, Neil Simpson, Steve Cowan, Dougie Bell, Derek Hamilton and Andy Watson were all given important roles at various stages and, as

Fergie points out, although they didn't get immediate rewards last season they can look forward to benefits in future years.

And we shouldn't forget goalkeeper Jim Leighton who came in the start of the season for the injured Bobby Clark and did so well that he lost only 26 goals in 35 games and delighted Jock Stein so much that the international boss promoted him to No. 3 in his World Cup squad behind Alan Rough and Billy Thomson.

Alex Ferguson is not the man to throw around praise when he feels it isn't fully warranted, but he says of Leighton: "He did well when you take everything into consideration, but he knows he must keep on working at his game.

"There are still some rough edges to be knocked off, but,

left out of our Roll of Honour is Partick Thistle's much wanted versatile youngster Jaimie Doyle, who has attracted the attention of Hibs and his boyhood idols Celtic.

Doyle started his career in the middle of the park for Thistle a couple of years ago, but last season he played at full-back, sweeper and midfield.

The player came to the end of his contract with Thistle at the completion of the season and that fact alerted clubs who could well use his adaptability.

He is a never-say-die player and it is no surprise that his former Firhill boss, Bertie Auld, now the supremo at Hibs, wants him to bolster the Edinburgh side's efforts in the Premier Division.

Auld, like Ferguson, is rarely lavish in his praise unless it is unavoidable, but he had some kinds things to say about Doyle during his days at Firhill.

"When I signed him from the juniors I knew he was going to be a good one," says Auld. "You can tell a player immediately he strikes a ball. Jaimie has a good touch and a good eye for the through ball. He'll go all the way."

Young Talent

Like we pointed out earlier, Dundee United haven't actually been slow to introduce fresh, young talent and last season it was the turn of Ralph Milne to sparkle in the Tannadice team.

Just listen to this praise from the equally-talented Billy Stark, of St. Mirren: "I could hardly believe it was the same player who was in and out of the United first team the previous year.

"Suddenly he was driving forward from midfield and having shots at goal with all the confidence of Bobby Charlton.

"He was taking on players and leaving them for dead with his amazing pace. He wanted responsibility and manager Jim McLean deserves marvellous credit for the way he has encouraged players such as Ralph Milne to utilise his natural aggression and talent."

These, then, are just some of the entertaining, exciting, entrancing young individuals who burst upon the Scottish soccer scene last term bringing dashing colour and verve to the proceedings.

The new season will offer another platform for the youngsters with stars in their eyes.



JIM LEIGHTON
— Already the
number three
'keeper

overall, I was happy enough with his play. He's got a good pair of hands and superb positional sense . . . and he'll get better."

One player who seems to have been around for quite a while, but really underlined his value last season was Airdrie striker Sandy Clark.

"When we were promoted from the First Division into the Top Ten a lot of people were saying we couldn't last the pace," says Clark. "That sort of talk made us even more determined to succeed.

"The critics were also saying I could score goals in the First, but could I continue to score them against the Premier teams? That was a question I had to answer myself.

"Well, I think I scored a few good goals and I hope there are a lot more where they came from.

"More importantly, the club proved it was good enough to stay in the Premier Division. Now we are all looking forward to the new season."

Clark, watched by a host of clubs last year, with Aberdeen to the forefront, dispelled any question marks that hovered over his ability and so, therefore, certainly deserves his place among our Finds of the Season.

Another player who couldn't be

exciting left winger Ian Scanlon. Saints could have a strike force to frighten the daylights out of some teams, mark our words!

Aberdeen may not have had much to shout about last season

SHOOT/SELECTIVE LEISURE COMPETITION RESULT

In our Selective Leisure competition in the May 9 issue, readers were invited to answer three questions about Brighton F.C. The correct answers were:

1 — The Seagulls; 2 — Peter Taylor; 3 — No, they haven't won the F.A. Cup.

Having considered all entries, the judges chose those sent by Andrew Seaman, of Peterborough, and Neil Williams, of Southampton, as being the neatest correct attempts, with age taken into account.

Each wins a Selective Leisure All-Sport holiday. For one week each they will enjoy expert coaching in a wide variety of sports.

The next 50 winners receive a Selective Leisure T-Shirt, they are:

Steven Anderson, Eastbourne; Julie Appleyard, Anlaby Hill; Neil Ashton, Wokingham; Mark Ballentine, Portsmouth; John Betteridge, Sutton; M. Bowers, Spalding; Darren Breckon, Middlesbrough; Steven Brooks, Glasgow; Jim Burgess, Belfast; Colin Carlisle, Bangor; Greg Carter, Portsmouth; James Chancellor, Camberley; Stuart Chapman, Eastbourne; Anthony Charlton, Hertford; Simon Cook, Bishops Cleeve; Helen Crump, Mansfield; Chris Davies, Nottingham; Ross Davies, Ellesmere Port; Stephen Dennett, Ashted; Timothy Donkin, Steyning; Alison Dunne, Hayes; Peter Dykes, Wirral; Richard Eames, Bolton; Martin Etherson, Ahoghill; Jason Fowlet, Brighton; Kevin Friend, Canterbury; Darrel Goddard, Ipswich; Steven Greenhough, Matlock; Mark Hooker, Brighton; James Hutson, Bridlington; Nicholas Johnson, Mansfield; Graham Lamb, Manchester; Andrew Lock, Worthing; Sean Lockhead, Killeam; Benjamin Longman, Southampton; Mark Lynch, Swindon; Cameron McMinn, Kendal; Geoffrey Pearce, Plymouth; Justin Pugh, Holsworthy; Mark Pulley, York; Jeremy Rippon, Worthing; Martin Robson, Carlisle; Gavin Smith, Ringmer; Steven Pursey, Seaton; Christopher Tomsett, Southwich; Andrew Watson, Norfolk; Neil Wheeler, Billingshurst; Stephen Williams, Newport Pagnell; John Withe, Liverpool; Christopher Wright, Codnor.

Our 50 runners-up each receive an autographed photograph of Brighton's Mark Lawrenson, they are:

Simon Andrews, Emsworth; Gregory Austin, Hove; Christopher Bailey, Leek; Geraldine Barrett, Galway; Kathy Bebbington, Northwich; Master L. Beestone, Leatherhead; Tony Belomy, Hetton-Le-Hole; Michael Brenton, Crawley; Paul Brice, Axbridge; Darrin Butcher, Weymouth; David Campbell, Argyll; Philip Cotton, Chester; John Crofts, Penrith; Alistair S. Douglas, Burnley; Graham Elliott, Haslemere; Richard Finch, Cwmbran; Peter Garbutt, Helmsley; Fiona Gordon, Nottingham; Michael Gormley, Bedford; Richard Gray, Nuneaton; Matthew Green, Havant; Michael Hall, Tingley; Philip Hickmott, Herne Bay; Richard Jenkins, Llantwit Major; Clifford Jones, Stoke-on-Trent; Ian Jones, Halesowen; Richard Jones, Swansea; Terry Leon, Basingstoke; Paul Mercer, Preston; Gary Morgan, Wells; Paul Myers, Humberston; Michael O'Keefe, Halstead; Barrie O'Reilly, Worthing; James Pearce, Woking; Nigel Phillips, Holt; Stephen Pierre, Ormesby; Timothy Rogers, Henley-on-Thames; William Rowe, Falmouth; Philip Scanlon, Crothorne; Peter Scargill, Stockport; Adrian Smith, Ferring; Brian Thomas, Worthington; Neal Thompson, Reading; Alan Townshend, Basildon; Paul Waite, Driffield; Mark Warburton, Middlewich; Matt White, Cranbrook; Richard Wilkinson, High Wycombe; Alan Woodcock, Rotherham; Stephen Worth, Stoke-on-Trent.

Spending so much time relaxing with Yvonne and Hayley at our holiday cottage in South Wales has given me the opportunity of reading through some of your letters.

Many of you SHOOT readers are concerned about my personal future at Manchester United. This letter from Harry Nicholas of Cheddle Hulme in Cheshire is typical of those I received on the subject.

"Since Dave Sexton left there seems to be much unrest at Old Trafford," he says.

"Already I've read reports that Sammy McIlroy, Jimmy Nicholl, Lou Macari, Mickey Thomas and Joe Jordan are on their way out.

"Naturally I don't expect you to comment on their personal affairs but what about your own situation, Gordon. Are you staying at United?"

I certainly hope so, Harry, unless new manager Ron Atkinson has other plans.

As regular readers know, I'm very happy at United and have recently signed a new two-year contract. Even when

that expires I don't think I'll want to leave.

I'll be 30 then and hopefully good for another four or five years. At the moment I feel as though I would like to end my playing days at United and then stay on as a coach.

"Peter Shilton and Trevor Francis have both been linked with United," writes Joan Carter from Nottingham. "What are your comments on the possibility of them signing for the club?"

Two players of their calibre don't come on the market often and would be of enormous benefit to any team, Joan.

Peter is one of the world's top 'keepers and Trevor one of the most exciting forwards in the game on his day. Two real crowd-pullers and match-winners.

I know them both and feel sure they would fit in at Old Trafford, or anywhere.

Having said that, though, I per-



sonally don't see a lot wrong with our own 'keeper Gary Bailey, or forwards Garry Birtles and Joe Jordan.

I'm convinced United fans will see a new Garry Birtles next season because take it from me he has the necessary skill and power to re-establish himself as one of the country's top strikers.

I also hope my pal Joe Jordan stays. As I write, his name is being linked with Manchester City after failing to agree on terms with United.

Mary Butler from Weybridge in

Surrey wants to know if I take my worries home.

"You missed most of last season because of injury," she says. "Did your wife suffer as a result?"

Yes, I'm afraid she did, Mary. Like most players of my age who are sidelined for many weeks with a serious injury there were times when I began to wonder if my career was over.

I got terribly depressed at one stage and snapped at Yvonne simply because she was there. I moped about the house, brooding about the injury.

Fortunately, it cleared up okay and Yvonne put up with my moaning.

"Does your wife take an interest in your career? And does she go to matches?" asks Terry Fielding from Hull.

Yvonne used to be a regular visitor to Old Trafford before Hayley was born, Terry. She's stopped

'I don't want to leave United'

Gordon with his wife Yvonne. She has stopped going to the games since the birth of their daughter Hayley.



Joe Jordan celebrates another goal for United, but the big Scotsman could soon be on the move from Old Trafford.

going now, not only because of the baby but due to the critical comments she heard from a minority of the crowd.

Naturally, Yvonne takes a keen interest in United and my career. She gets a bit out of touch during the close-season, though. Asked me who the new manager of the club was a few days ago!

My father still sees as many games as possible even though he lives in Scotland.

Well, I'm afraid space has beaten me this week. Join me in a fortnight and enjoy yourselves if like me you are on holiday.

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SHILTON BOMBSHELL

APRIL 1

Liverpool capture the only domestic trophy they've never won — the League Cup. Despite a splendid fight by West Ham — including a 9th-minute lead from Paul Goddard — goals by Dalglish and Hansen emphasise Liverpool's overall superiority.

APRIL 4

John Bond's clash with his old club ends unhappily as Norwich beat Manchester City 2-0 to snatch two more vital points in their fight against relegation. And West Ham, shaking off their League Cup Final disappointment, clinch promotion by beating Bristol Rovers 2-0.

APRIL 5

There's a bombshell for Forest when Peter Shilton (below) reveals he's ready to leave the club to try his luck in Europe.



APRIL 8

Liverpool are held 0-0 at Anfield by Bayern Munich in the European Cup Semi-Final first leg. And Ipswich can only manage one goal — scored, almost inevitably, by John Wark — in their slender 1-0

lead over Tony Woodcock's Cologne in the UEFA Cup. In the League, Villa increase their lead at the top to three points when a single Peter Withe goal settles the local derby with West Bromwich.

APRIL 11

The first part of Ipswich's plucky bid for a historic treble ends when an extra-time Paul Power goal breaks the deadlock to steer Manchester City to Wembley. In the other F.A. Cup Semi-Final, a highly controversial 90th-minute penalty by Willie Carr saves the day at 2-2 for Wolves against Spurs.

APRIL 14

Ipswich may be out of the Cup — but they're still battling hard on other fronts. In the First Division "Final", they keep their League title hopes alive with a superb 2-1 win away to fierce rivals Villa.

APRIL 15

Spurs make no mistake at the second attempt, disposing of Wolves 3-0 in the F.A. Cup Semi-Final replay.

APRIL 18

The strain is beginning to tell on Ipswich as, beaten 2-0 by Arsenal, they suffer their first home defeat

for 18 months. Meanwhile Villa crush Forest 2-0. Says Bobby Robson: "We're certainly not conceding the League title yet".

APRIL 20

There's no Easter Monday fun for Ipswich. After seeing his side go down to a single Fashanu goal in the East Anglian derby at Norwich, manager Robson finally concedes: "The only way we can win the title now is if Villa do what we seem to have done — throw it away!" Villa are held 1-1 at Stoke, but it could be a vital point.

APRIL 21

The Football Writers' Association elect Frans Thijssen as "Footballer of the Year" — with skipper Mick Mills second, John Wark third, and Arnold Muhren fifth.

APRIL 22

It's to be two English clubs for Euro Finals. In the Champions Cup, a goal apiece in the last seven minutes — with Ray Kennedy's, away from home, counting double — sees Liverpool through 1-1 against Bayern Munich on the away-goals rule. And hard-pressed Ipswich see Terry Butcher get the only goal of the game away to Cologne to clinch a place in the UEFA Cup Final.

APRIL 23

Geoff Hurst (right) England's hat-trick hero of that 1966 World Cup Final — is the latest managerial casualty when he's fired from the Chelsea hot-seat.



APRIL 25

Villa beat Middlesbrough 3-0 and it's looking as if they're almost



there on taking the League title for the first time in 71 years. Despite a 1-0 win over Birmingham (above) Leicester are relegated.

APRIL 28

England beat Rumania 3-0 in the Under-21 competition — while two penalties from John Robertson guides the Scots to a 3-1 World Cup win over Israel.

APRIL 29

England have a patched-up, under-strength side out in a vital World Cup tie against Rumania — but that hardly excuses a drab, lacklustre 0-0 draw (below). But Northern Ireland do their own hopes no harm with a workmanlike 1-0 win over Portugal.



APRIL 30

Manchester United boss Dave Sexton is sacked after a run of seven successive victories, along with his No. 2, Tommy Cavanagh.

APRIL TABLE-TOPPERS

Div. 1:
Aston Villa (60 pts)
Ipswich (56)
Arsenal (51)

Div. 2:
West Ham (61)
Notts County (49)
Blackburn (48)

Div. 3:
Rotherham (59)
Charlton (57)
Barnsley (55)

Div. 4:
Southend (66)
Lincoln (62)
Wimbledon (53)

APRIL TABLE-PROPPERS

Div. 1:
Wolves (32)
Leicester (30)
Crystal Palace (18)

Div. 2:
Preston (34)
Bristol City (30)
Bristol Rovers (23)

Div. 3:
Colchester (37)
Blackpool (31)
Hull (30)

Div. 4:
York (33)
Halifax (31)
Hereford (30)

CHAMPIONS CELTIC

APRIL 1

Celtic declare war on the SFA after their £1000 fine for the Gordon Strachan assault is ratified.

APRIL 6

The SFA ask that managers and coaches should all hold SFA coaching certificates — but their proposal is rejected by the association council. Celtic's appeal against their fine fails.

APRIL 8

The Scottish branch of the National Federation of Supporters' Clubs take out an action against the F.A. because of the Wembley ban on Scottish supporters.

APRIL 10

The top four teams prepare for the so-vital Semi-Finals.

APRIL 11

At Hampden Celtic and Dundee United draw 0-0 — at Celtic Park there is mayhem. Rangers eventually beat Morton 2-1 in a game scarred by 50 fouls. Morton have two players sent-off by referee Brian McGinlay and another five booked. Rangers pick up three bookings.

APRIL 15

Celtic lose 3-2 to Dundee United and most Scots' fans, recalling the riots at the previous year's Hampden Final, breathe a sigh of relief that the Big Two won't clash again.

APRIL 16

The plea by the Scots' fans is heard in court in London and their complaint against the F.A. is rejected.

APRIL 18

Celtic beat Rangers 1-0 at Ibrox through a Charlie Nicholas goal and that almost certainly gives them the title, though manager Billy McNeill won't celebrate until the outcome is certain. One thing which is decided is Hibs' promotion to the Premier Division — and it's done while manager Bertie Auld is sunning himself in Majorca.



APRIL 22

The delayed celebrations can now take place. Celtic beat Dundee United 3-2 at Tannadice and no one can overtake them. They are Champions for the second time in three years.

APRIL 27

Goalkeeper Alan Rough of Scotland and Partick Thistle is named Player of the Year by the Scottish Football Writers' Association.

APRIL 28

Scotland beat Israel 3-1 in front of 61,489 Hampden fans (left). John Robertson hits two from the penalty spot and Davie Provan gets the other.

APRIL 30

Sean Fallon, former assistant manager to Celtic, quits as manager of Dumbarton.

SUPER SPURS — SAD ENGLAND

MAY 2

Villa's hero is Bosco Jankovic — of Middlesbrough! His 88th minute goal (his second of the game) sinks Ipswich 2-1 to snuff out their last faint hope of the League Championship — and, though Villa themselves are well beaten 2-0 at Arsenal, the title is theirs for the first time in 71 years (below). And it's Notts County — 2-0 winners at crisis-torn Chelsea — back in the First Division for the first time in 55 years. Swansea, winning 3-1 at Preston, will join them up there to give Wales a Division One side for the first time in 19 years. Sunderland save their First Division place with a shock away win at (would you believe it?) Anfield.

MAY 6

Ipswich have a great 3-0 first-leg start in the U.E.F.A. Cup Final. John Wark (penalty) hits his 35th goal of the season as AZ67 Alkmaar are comfortably beaten. Thijssen also hits one against his Dutch countrymen, and Mariner sets the three-goal seal on a superb performance. Gordon Lee is fired by Everton, and John Neal by Middlesbrough — while Stan Anderson (Bolton) completes the day's managerial "hat-trick".

MAY 7

Howard Kendall takes over as Everton boss.

MAY 9

It's Tommy Hutchison's day at Wembley in the 100th F.A. Cup Final. He gets both goals with fierce headers — the second, unluckily for him, in the wrong net! "Hutch" puts Manchester City ahead in the 29th minute, but then

deflects a Glenn Hoddle free-kick past a stranded Joe Corrigan to get Spurs on level terms nine minutes from normal time.

MAY 12

In-between the Cup battles, Brazil come to Wembley for a prestige friendly against England. In a splendid game, the teams are separated only by a single Zico goal but Peter Withe almost earns England a draw when the last kick hits a post.



MAY 14

It's back to Wembley again for the 100th F.A. Cup Final — and truly a match of the century. With fact stranger than fiction, it's Ricky Villa — despondently substituted on Saturday — who is Spurs' hero with a super two-goal show in the 3-2 replay beating of Manchester City (above). England put the cat among the pigeons by refusing, in the light of the renewed political violence, to play in Northern Ireland on Saturday.

MAY 15

Now Wales follow England's lead by pulling out of their own game in Belfast next week — and the 1980-81 British Championship (reduced to four, instead of six matches) has really fallen apart at the seams.

MAY 16

At least Wales play Scotland —

and an early 2-0 lead from Ian Walsh, without reply, in an enterprising display marks their card as being as good a bet as any of Britain's World Cup candidates. Black mark for the outplayed Scots — seeing Joe Jordan sent-off.

MAY 18

It's a big "No" to Manchester United as Lawrie McMenemy turns down the prestigious Old Trafford job.

MAY 20

"Little" Wales do it again — with a deserved 0-0 draw at Wembley — as England fail to score for the third successive game. This is something which has never happened before to them in 109 years of international combat. But real honours of the night go to Ipswich — so deservedly picking up one of their once hoped-for three trophies — as they take the U.E.F.A. Cup. But how they keep their fans on tenterhooks as that apparently comfortable 3-0 first-leg lead against AZ67 Alkmaar is so nearly wiped-out. Losing 2-4 on the night — but winning 5-4 on aggregate — they are put on the right road by their own Dutchman, Frans Thijssen, before John Wark equals the Euro club record with his 14th Cup goal of the campaign.

MAY 23

Contrary to all predictions of doom and gloom the Scottish fans do their country proud. So do their players — a John Robertson penalty providing the only goal of the game. It's England's third Wembley defeat of the season — and the fourth successive match in which they've failed to score.

MAY 27

After the trauma of England's drab run — only one win in the last seven outings — trust Liverpool to give the old country a mighty boost. They join the Euro greats

when a single Alan Kennedy goal (below) just before the end is enough to pip Real Madrid, those giants of the past, and gain the Champions Cup for England for the fifth successive year.



MAY 29

After McMenemy, now Villa's "Manager of the Year" Ron Saunders turns down the Manchester United manager's job.

MAY 30

After Liverpool's triumph for England... back we come down to earth again when the national side nosedives 1-2 to Switzerland in Basle in a crucial World Cup qualifier. And, to add insult to injury, a section of England's so-called travelling "supporters" are involved in disgraceful terrace trouble. Setback, too, for high-flying Wales. They're held 0-0 by Russia at Wrexham — though manager Mike England predicts his lively side can still make it to Spain.

★★★ JUNE Postscript

Against all the odds, after all the aggro, England rise from the ashes seven days later to rekindle hopes of qualifying for next summer's World Cup Finals. A deserved 3-1 victory over Hungary in Budapest — on the pitch that once staged England's heaviest defeat — pulls off that surprise-packet. So now we can only wait and hope...

FINAL UPS-and-DOWNS

Div 1

Champions — Aston Villa (60 pts)
Relegated — Norwich (33)
Leicester (32)
Crystal Palace (19)

Div 2:

Champions — West Ham (66)
Promoted — Notts County (53)
Swansea (50)
Relegated — Preston (36)

Bristol City (30)
Bristol Rovers (23)

Div 3:

Champions — Rotherham (61)
Promoted — Barnsley (59)
Charlton (59)
Relegated — Sheffield United (40)
Colchester (39)

Blackpool (32)
Hull (32)

Div 4:

Champions — Southend (67)
Promoted — Lincoln (65)
Doncaster (56)
Wimbledon (55)
Re-elected — Tranmere (36)
Hereford (35)
Halifax (34)
York (33)

SCOTLAND'S RECORD DEAL

MAY 2

The League season ends and Dundee join Hibs in winning promotion to the Premier Division.

MAY 6

Jock Stein names pool of players for British Championship. Veteran Archie Gemmill is axed while Paul Sturrock of Dundee United and Tommy Burns of Celtic are in.

MAY 8

Despite fears that live TV coverage might kill the gate the SFA predict that around 60,000 fans will be at Hampden for the Cup Final.

MAY 9

Not too far out in their guess — the official figure is 53,000 but they watch a 0-0 draw after extra time. And they see Rangers' Ian Redford miss a penalty in the last minute of ordinary play.

MAY 12

Rangers make no mistake the second time around. 43,000 are at the replay and see the Ibrox side romp away with the Cup by winning 4-1 with goals from Davie Cooper, Bobby Russell and John MacDonald (2).

MAY 15

Asa Hartford is named Scotland skipper for the first time in an experimental Jock Stein line-up against Wales.

MAY 16

The experiment fails. Scotland lose 2-0 and Joe Jordan is sent-off in the second-half.

MAY 18

Stein changes things for the match against the Irish at Hampden and both Sturrock and Burns come in.

MAY 19

A change indeed — a Ray Stewart goal after five minutes, another from Steve Archibald after 49 minutes, are enough



to give Scotland a comfortable win. After the game Rangers announce that they have signed Irish international John McClelland from Mansfield for £90,000.

MAY 23

Scotland beat England 1-0 through a John Robertson penalty — 50,000 Scots are at Wembley despite the ticket ban.

MAY 27

In a record Scottish deal worth £300,000 St Mirren winger Peter Weir goes to Aberdeen. Dons' winger Ian Scanlon goes to Paisley. In addition Saints announce that they are buying Tony Fitzpatrick from Bristol City.

MAY 28

Derek Johnstone, who lost the captaincy of the club earlier in the season, is placed on the transfer list by Rangers. At the Scottish League's annual meeting the clubs vote against a change in the present League set up.

TERRY Connor is so determined to become one of England's top footballers that he often goes back for extra training in the afternoon at Leeds.

He says: "Some players seem frightened to work at their game and their skills. But when things aren't going right for me, I put in as much practice as possible to try and improve things."

"It's hard for young players to play every week in the First Division. You need a breather. But I'm

against West Brom and scored the only goal of the game.

He scored another three in the next five games.

He again came up with some vital goals to help the team recover from a sticky start last season. So next term, he'd like to see Leeds start with a bang.

Connor was born in Leeds, though his family come from St Kitts in the West Indies.

"I'm a real patriot. I hate to see England lose at anything, though it's not so bad if the West Indies beat them at cricket!

"I went out to the West Indies in the summer to play for an all black team drawn from the League. I was able to see my grandparents for the first time."

Connor may have West Indian family roots. But first and foremost, he's an Englishman. Proud to wear the white shirt that he's done with distinction nine times for England youth.

"It depresses me that we're not doing so well at senior interna-

tional level. I felt pretty sure we were going to qualify for the World Cup without any problems.

"I think it is probably time for the England manager to put some youngsters in the side. The older ones don't seem to understand the continental game.

"I'd love to get the chance to play at full international level. But I don't know whether I'm quite ready yet.

"My first priority at the moment is to get off to a flying start with Leeds next term. I want to put last season behind me and start banging in some goals.

"Towards the end of last season we started to show what we were capable of. I know we took a lot of stick for playing a defensive game, but once we had gained security in the First Division, we started to attack more.

"I wasn't always part of that side, but next season I plan to become a regular first team player. The only way I can do that is by scoring more goals, and that is what I'll do."

Connor feels the strain

determined to establish myself in the Leeds first team next season.

"I struggled a bit last term. There were games that just passed me by and whatever I did, I couldn't get into them.

"Manager Allan Clarke said that he would have pulled me out of the team earlier if he'd had more players to use. But with the team in relegation trouble, he had to use me."

Clarke feels that the youngster might need a spell of reserve football to regain his confidence but Connor says: "I intend to start playing so well at the start of the season that Allan Clarke can't leave me out.

"He has told me that I'm a member of the first team squad and that's where I want to stay."

Connor made a sensational debut for Leeds in November, 1979. He came on as substitute



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WHAT a terrific start to the season we can all look forward to.

League Champions Aston Villa at home to newly-promoted Notts County, two of the original members of the Football League face-to-face 93 years on; European Champions Liverpool going to Wolves where they came a cropper last season; Swansea City making their First Division debut after 61 years against Leeds United; and Coventry City clashing headlong with Manchester United — Sexton versus Atkinson.

Some real appetisers for the following eight months — but has it ever crossed your mind how all these fixtures are permuted?

A trip to Football League headquarters at Lytham St Annes to investigate the fixtures formula proved most enlightening.

Did you know for a start that all clubs are consulted about the fixtures?

Did you know that every club has the option of naming another club they wish to avoid clashing with on home match days?

Did you know that it's impossible for any club to get three successive home or away matches?

Did you know that key crowd-pulling days like Boxing Day, Easter Monday etc, are given on a rota basis to clubs so that everyone has a chance of big money at holiday times?

And did you know that the man who feeds the Football League computer comes from — of all places — the Philippines?

Football League secretary Graham Kelly (right) confirmed to us that tremendous thought and planning go into the fixtures — more than happened a few years ago when there seemed to be constant wrangling between the League and unhappy clubs.

"We like to think we've just about got it right now, and if we haven't it's certainly not for the want of trying.

"The man from Manila who is our computer programmer has a fantastic brain, and he does a first class job. He takes all clubs' requests into consideration, draws charts and makes scores of

permutations to make sure things are as near perfect as possible before feeding the computer.

"When he started I don't think he knew much about football, but now he knows as much about the game as anyone."

You'll be astonished at some of those requests that are considered. For example in Nottingham the Goose Fair is a traditional event that brings the crowds flooding in, so neither Forest nor County really want to be at home on the same day.

FIXTURES HAVE CLUBS IN A FIX



- **Notts County paired with Spurs**
- **Aldershot miss the Red Arrows**
- **London club avoids church services**

Aldershot are never asked to play at home on the Saturday of the Farnborough Air Show for obvious reasons — the sight of a centre-forward ducking to avoid the low-flying Red Arrows would be something.

One London club has asked not to be at home on Good Friday as the church next door has a couple of services that day, and presumably the clientele for both would hardly appreciate getting mixed-up and queueing for the wrong event.

"All these things are very important to the individual clubs," says Graham Kelly, adding, "if we can make life easier for them we all benefit in the long run."

Interestingly enough, most clubs frown on derby fixtures on a public holiday.

"They reason that they can get a big crowd for a derby match any time in the season, so why waste that on a Bank Holiday date. What we try to do therefore is pair two clubs who have reasonable access to one another for the sake of the fans, but not to put say Manchester City and Manchester United together on Boxing Day."

There's a similar argument when it comes to clubs nominating the side they most want to avoid clashing with.

Notts County, for example, would not put down Nottingham Forest. They realise that only an idiot or a duff computer would have County and Forest playing at home on the same Saturday — so County are paired with Spurs.

The man who enjoys the role of being Fixtures Secretary at the League is Lee Walker, but he also has to keep the peace with clubs who don't get all their demands satisfied.

He has already had to tell Ipswich Town that they haven't a

cat in hell's chance of getting a match in the opening weeks of the season postponed — because they want to play in a lucrative Super Cup involving Real Madrid.

"As the season goes on one hears clubs moaning about fixture congestion, especially the successful clubs in Cup competitions, and yet here is one of them applying for a postponement which most people would say is needless."

'Satisfaction'

Obviously it's impossible to get 100 per cent success and satisfaction from a fixture list which is bound to annoy someone, and there was one case last year when Coventry were at home to Middlesbrough, while West Brom were passing them on the way to Sunderland.

That was on Boxing Day and neither Ron Atkinson nor John Neal was amused about spending Christmas Day away from home.

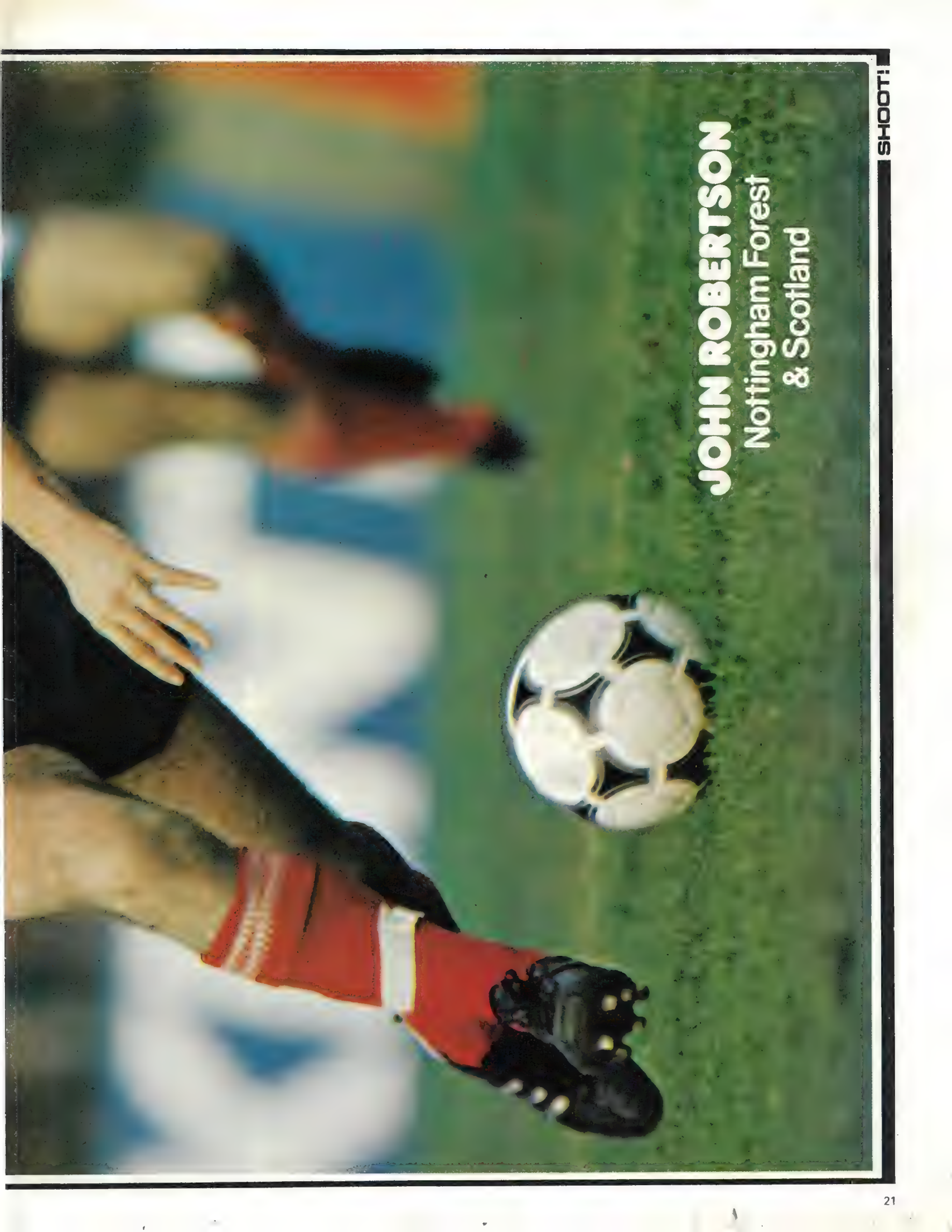
The obvious thing would appear to have been a switch so that Middlesbrough and Sunderland met in the North-East and Coventry and West Brom fought it out in the Midlands, but the League point out that it literally is impossible to give every club a short journey.

"We are not infallible but I can say that the number of complaints has decreased year by year, and the relationship between the League and the clubs in general is excellent," says Walker.



Liverpool (dark strip) travel to Wolves on the opening day of the League season looking to avenge last season's 4-1 defeat at Molineux.





JOHN ROBERTSON
Nottingham Forest
& Scotland

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Some failure!

IN Goal-Lines Mark Suffern claimed that Northern Ireland's achievements have been ignored, while "more publicity has been given to the Republic's continued failure with their so-called superstars Brady, Stapleton and O'Leary."

Does he call beating Holland, the World Cup runners-up, a failure? Does he call drawing with Belgium (right), the European Championship runners-up, a failure? Does he call beating Cyprus, 6-0 and 3-2, a failure?

Look at Ireland's group: Cyprus, France, Holland and Belgium. France and Holland were in Argentina. Holland and Belgium were in Italy.

Look at Northern Ireland's group: Sweden, Israel, Scotland and Portugal. Not one got to Italy and still Northern Ireland look like failing to qualify from what is overall an average group.

If Ireland's not qualifying from such a high quality group is a FAILURE, then Northern Ireland's "achievement" in not qualifying is a disgrace and something to be ashamed of.

I'm sure if Ireland had been in Northern Ireland's group and vice-versa there would have been one "Ireland".

And I'm sure you know who I mean.

AIDEN KELLY, DUBLIN.

● I'm sure all Irish fans agree that a combined Ireland team would succeed where the two sides have failed.



Points blunder

HAVE the F.A. made a grave mistake in changing the points system next season?

Although I am all for ideas to improve our great game, I can't help thinking

that this system is more likely to turn a match into a negative situation.

I am a Southampton season ticket holder and I can foresee many situations next season where the opposition snatch a goal just before half-time and for the remaining 45 minutes they will defend as much as they possibly can, back passing and generally time-wasting to secure their points.

The F.A. should have a re-think and consider other boring incidents in our game, such as when goalkeepers tediously roll the ball around the area, throw it to a nearby defender who controls the ball for a few seconds while drawing an attacker and then slides the ball back to the waiting goalkeeper, who kicks the ball hopefully upfield only to see three forwards all caught offside.

These are the factors that keep the crowds away.

MARK FORSTER,
POOLE.

● Obviously we'll have to wait and see how, if at all, the three points system works. Like you, I have my doubts.

England's goal

THE European Championship and the World Cup are the greatest sporting occasions for our England side.

Yes, it's nice to see our clubs enjoying so much success in Europe, it's nice the things foreigners say about our League set-up, but what about international success from our national side?

World Cup and European Championship success should be our goal. This should be the stage for our football to blossom; being successful and respected by other footballing nations.

Our international record since 1966 is an utter disgrace — yet all we hear are excuses, excuses.

JOHN FORSTER,
DENTON BURN.

● Excuses, such as the system the players play in, the number of games each season and clubs being concerned only about themselves are valid. It's a minor miracle English clubs do so well.



What does The Doc want?

I WAS looking through some back numbers of SHOOT! recently when an article in the edition of 14 February caught my eye.

The headline was "Docherty Blast" and the story was about how Tommy Docherty, on his way to take up a managerial position in Australia, found himself "completely fed up with British football".

The next thing I picked up was the sports section of a Sydney Sunday newspaper, dated 14 June, just four months later.

"Docherty Lashes Out" headed the main story and the first paragraph read: "Tommy Docherty lashed out yesterday at the 'little Mr Nothings' of Australian soccer in a farewell blast before he returns to England on Monday."

I wonder if Tommy Docherty will ever know what he wants.

GRAHAM COOKE,
AUSTRALIA.

● He had what he really wanted and lost it: the Manchester United job.

Pen-Pal

I'M a 17-year-old girl, who would like to correspond with Everton supporters from all over Britain. Even supporters of other teams are very welcome to write to me: they must live in Britain, though.

ANNA OLSON,
NACKROSSTIGEN 6,
S-U3200 VARBERG, SWEDEN.

ASK THE EXPERT

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Alan Hudson

How many Football League games did the former England player Alan Hudson play, and how many goals did he score?

JAMES BROMET,
DAVENTRY

● He kicked-off with ten goals in 145 games for Chelsea, James, followed by nine in 105 for Stoke.

After that, it was 36 League games, without scoring, for Arsenal before his contract was cancelled in October, 1978.

Since then, Hudson has been playing for Seattle Sounders in the North American Soccer League.

Level

Have two Football League clubs ever finished a season with identical records?

ANTHONY D'SOUZA,
OMAM

● Not exactly 100 per cent, Anthony — but I have found an instance of a couple who once finished-up with an equal number of points, and also the same number of goals for and against.

That was in the old Third Division (North) in 1952-53 — when Chesterfield and Tranmere each got 47 points, and each had the same goal-tally of 65 for and 63 against.

As they were in mid-table, it didn't matter all that much — and, solely for the sake of convenience, Chesterfield were placed ahead of Tranmere on "alphabetical" grounds.

But if promotion or re-election had been at stake... then there are provisions for a deciding match, or matches, to be played to separate the two clubs.

SHORT PASSES

● Sir Stanley Matthews played in three F.A. Cup Finals for Blackpool — losing to Manchester United in 1948, and Newcastle in 1951; and winning (at the age of 38) against Bolton in 1953.

(JOSHUA BOWAJE, Nigeria)

● Since their election to the Football League in 1893, Liverpool have played 11 seasons in Division Two — but have never been lower in status.

(MARCO GASCO, South Africa)

● In the 1966-67 season, Celtic won every competition they entered — European Cup, Scottish League, Scottish F.A. Cup, Scottish League Cup, and Glasgow Cup.

(BILLY KENNEDY, Eire)

● Most goals scored by a club in English First Division games in a single season is 128 — by Aston Villa in 1930-31.

(CLIVE LEE, Sunderland)

Short Passes are replies to readers' letters.

GRAY'S OFF TARGET

ANDY GRAY's comments on Villa's title win showed his ill feeling towards Ron Saunders. Some of the remarks were clearly biased, and I feel a more accurate résumé of events is required.

It is hardly fair to dismiss the signings of Allan Evans, Ken Swain, etc., as lucky.

Or that the building of a title winning side was largely the result of spending vast sums of money not available to other managers.

The facts are:

Players transferred	Villa's present squad	transfer fees-paid (in £000's)
Gregory (in £000's)	Rimmer	70
250	Swain	100
1,400	Williams	—
Gray	Evans	20
Deehan	McNaught	200
Gidman	Mortimer	200
	Bremner	240
Total transfer payments received: £2,650,000	Shaw	—
	Withe	500
		Total transfer fees paid: £2,170,000



So the rebuilding of the side was self-financing; indeed there was a profit besides the improvement in the playing side.

Although Gray is a fine player, John Barnwell must reflect that the money may have been spent better on a number of players rather than one. However, there is no intention to criticise Barnwell, who has effected a marked improvement at Molineux and may indeed have achieved more but for his ill-health.

Gray may consider his football has benefited from the move. Yet I always regarded Gray as the traditional goal-hungry striker who measured his performance by his goal tally, and looked at from that angle Gray has stagnated, even deteriorated.

His injury problems can't have helped and must have added to the frustration of knowing that his transfer which nearly brought Saunders the sack instead bought him the Championship.

● The four stars Saunders sold have not reached such high spots with their next clubs, for one reason or another. Luck... or foresight?



Gordon Strachan will be crucial to Aberdeen's Scottish Championship hopes.

I'll leave that to my SHOOT colleague and Old Firm rival Danny McGrain — but they are a team that can never be ignored. They took the Championship by seven points last season and will be in no mood to relinquish their grip.

Watch out for Aberdeen, too, they will be a dangerous outfit. I think manager Alex Ferguson did well when he bought Peter Weir from St Mirren.

I've seen Peter in action and I believe he is a personality player who will inspire his team-mates and excite the crowds.

I agree with Alex Ferguson when he says his team have the right balance now. With Gordon Strachan on the right and Peter Weir on the left they will take some

two years and are eager to advance on to bigger and better things. My boyhood idols certainly came a cropper when we walloped them 4-1 in the Scottish Cup Final replay, but they will kick off the new season in determined fashion.

St Mirren, too, could be a team to look out for. They have come close to making the big breakthrough in recent years and with new players Tony Fitzpatrick and Ian Scanlon in their line-up they could shock a lot of teams.

I think those teams will make the biggest impact, but I am not discounting anyone. Dundee, Airdrie, Morton, Partick Thistle and Hibs are

'Watch out for dangerous Dons'

all equipped to fight it out to the very last.

My fingers are firmly crossed for an exciting, invigorating season. I hope the fans have no complaints this time next year.

I'm also hoping Scotland will be in the World Cup Finals in Spain next summer. My crystal ball tells me Jock Stein's lads will be there okay, but it gets a bit cloudy when it comes to actually winning the trophy!

And I'll tell you another thing . . . don't count me out of the international reckoning. Next season is crucial to yours truly. I've got some questions to answer, some doubters to put right and I'll be giving it everything.

Derek Johnstone playing for Scotland in the World Cup Finals! It's a lovely thought.

stopping.

Actually, Aberdeen are not one of my favourite teams because of the controversial incident in the League Cup Final at Hampden a few years back when big Doug Rougvie was ordered off after clattering into me.

I was accused of taking a dive at the time, but I assure you I'm a big lad and it takes a far old whack to knock me over . . . and that's exactly what happened.

There was no way I was going to get involved in a slanging match then and I won't now, but I will say that Aberdeen, despite their criticism of me in the past, are a gifted team with several outstanding players and they will push all the way for that Premier crown.

They didn't win anything last season and people were saying they were a flash in the pan after the title win of the previous term. I think that will make them even more dangerous this time out.

Dundee United will also be putting on the pressure. They have won the League Cup for the past

It's time to do a bit of crystal ball gazing to see what the new season holds in store for Scottish teams.

My own future is uncertain at the moment as everyone surely knows by now, but I still think this will be a great season for Rangers — with or without a certain Derek Johnstone!

Manager John Greig has been working in the transfer market and the club should reap the rewards this term.

It's been four seasons since Rangers took the Premier Division Championship and that fact is not designed to put a smile on the face of anyone connected with the Ibrox club.

Rangers look equipped for a long, hard battle for the title and players such as Jim Stewart, Ian Redford, Gregor Stevens, Jim Bett and Colin McAdam — all bought by Mr. Greig in recent seasons —

should be settled in now and knitting into the team pattern.

With a little good fortune Rangers could go all the way, but the competition will be fierce. You never have to look far across Glasgow for a challenge from a certain team whose name escapes me at the moment!

Yes, I believe Celtic will be in there battling right to the death and, like Rangers, they will have young players who will be all the better for last season's experiences.

I don't want to dwell on Celtic —

**TARTAN TALK FROM
CELTIC'S DANNY
McGRAIN NEXT WEEK**

NOBBY

YOU'RE AN AMERICAN SOCCER
PLAYER I HEAR



THAT'S RIGHT, BUD, JUST
CALL ME 'TEX'



YOU'RE FROM TEXAS, EH?



MARYLAND ACTUALLY, BUT
WHO WANTS TO BE CALLED?
MARY?



In stark contrast to 1979-80 — when there was a slight but heartening increase of a few thousand over the previous campaign — last season Football League gates nose-dived dramatically by nearly **TWO-AND-THREE-QUARTER-MILLION** fans.

And that, at the turnstiles, represented a financial loss of maybe some **SIX MILLION** pounds.

As a Labour M.P., Jack Dunnett, newly-elected President of the League, is well aware the country is in a right old mess where that sum perhaps looks mere chickenfeed.

But to soccer, for a decade in growing dire straits, it represents a small fortune.

As Mr Dunnett says: "Of all our problems, it's the slump in gates which alarms me most of all. The constant drop is causing enormous financial worries to even the biggest clubs, and we're determined to find an answer."

Brave words (even if we seem to have heard them before) and we can only wish him well in his sincere efforts. But time is fast running out, and decisive action must follow those words **NOW**.

Manchester United, with or without honours, can usually be relied upon to pack 'em in at Old Trafford.

Once again United topped the attendance poll, but even they this time failed to reach their traditional million.

Last season's aggregate League gate of 21,907,569 in what wasn't all that bad a winter, and with hooliganism at least no worse than it's been for the past two or three years, was the lowest since the War.

And not much above half the 41,271,414 cash-customers in the peak post-War season of 1948-49. (Which, with four clubs less in the League, was for 180 fewer games.)

But in common with every other business in these hard times — and, like it or not, modern day soccer is a business — football clubs are really feeling the pinch.

It's almost the crunch situation for many in the Third and Fourth Divisions, but even Liverpool —

the ICI of English soccer, consistently successful at home and abroad — have problems.

Their "productivity" is fine, but as costs spiral fewer customers come to "buy" it.

Football is a religion on Merseyside, and it takes a mighty lot to keep people away.

Certainly unemployment there is appalling — far above the national average. But during the last big slump in the 1930's soccer gates stayed high as people looked for 90 minutes of excitement to brighten their drab lives.

Today with action-replays thrown in, they can get much of that cheaply at home in front of the telly. And miss out on possible hooliganism into the bargain.

League President Dunnett says: "I've always been against too much TV soccer, and I've been proved right!" Which is why he's made it very clear that he'll at least press for a much better financial deal when TV contracts come up

SOCCER'S SAD S

Gates DOWN

Takings DOWN

But Manchester United



The success of Ipswich and Villa enabled them to enjoy increased attendances.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE ATTENDANCES

	1979-80	1980-81	Difference
FIRST DIVISION	12,163,002	11,392,894	-770,108
SECOND DIVISION	6,112,025	5,175,442	-936,583
THIRD DIVISION	3,999,328	3,637,854	-361,474
FOURTH DIVISION	2,349,620	1,701,379	-648,241
TOTAL	24,623,975	21,907,569	-2,716,406

(The figure in brackets after each club indicates their final League position for 1980-81).

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME			AWAY		
	1979-80	1980-81	Difference	1979-80	1980-81	Difference
ARSENAL (3)	705,509	682,077	(-23,432)	564,237	522,256	(-41,981)
A. VILLA (1)	587,491	706,465	(+118,974)	555,679	616,869	(+61,010)
BIRMINGHAM (13)**	428,958	404,199	(-24,759)	311,064	463,887	(+152,823)
BRIGHTON (19)	519,636	398,660	(-120,976)	520,496	459,945	(-60,551)
COVENTRY (16)	405,616	354,986	(-50,630)	492,000	442,103	(-49,897)
C PALACE (22)	625,666	404,877	(-220,789)	546,280	477,446	(-68,834)
EVERTON (15)	602,924	548,211	(-54,713)	526,128	501,288	(-24,840)
IPSWICH (2)	454,010	517,002	(+62,992)	521,916	563,145	(+41,229)
LEEDS (9)	478,541	448,925	(-29,616)	569,747	510,483	(-59,264)
LEICESTER (21)**	391,349	408,993	(+17,644)	308,062	491,810	(+183,748)
LIVERPOOL (5)	936,296	788,490	(-147,806)	741,115	688,483	(-52,632)
MAN CITY (12)	740,709	705,328	(-35,381)	565,139	486,143	(-78,996)
MAN UNITED (8)	1,083,761	946,491	(-137,270)	714,189	625,563	(-88,626)
M'BORO (14)	393,522	345,076	(-48,446)	476,216	463,676	(-12,540)
NORWICH (20)	361,733	359,943	(-1,790)	503,655	444,485	(-59,170)
NOTT FOREST (7)	553,355	514,133	(-39,222)	631,007	562,585	(-68,422)
S'OTON (6)	448,031	451,114	(+3,083)	535,884	556,476	(+20,592)
STOKE (11)	423,704	327,183	(-96,521)	502,437	446,798	(-55,639)
SUNDERLAND (17)**	569,507	556,010	(-13,497)	307,220	512,613	(+205,393)
TOTTENHAM (10)	672,385	645,198	(-27,187)	608,202	559,877	(-48,325)
WBA (4)	470,786	426,954	(-43,832)	547,712	520,694	(-27,018)
WOLVES (18)	540,351	452,579	(-87,772)	565,626	476,269	(-89,357)

(** Second Division in 1979-80)

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME			AWAY		
	1979-80	1980-81	Difference	1979-80	1980-81	Difference
BLACKBURN (4)***	237,157	245,357	(+8,200)	188,783	260,400	(+71,617)
BOLTON (18)*	343,411	206,796	(-136,615)	482,792	221,608	(-261,184)
BRISTOL C (21)*	397,582	205,063	(-192,519)	461,600	207,122	(-254,478)
BRISTOL RVRS (22)	155,376	124,509	(-30,867)	224,560	208,648	(-15,912)
CAMBRIDGE (13)	128,677	121,711	(-6,966)	223,543	213,441	(-10,102)
CARDIFF (19)	208,456	142,098	(-66,358)	247,585	211,063	(-36,522)
CHELSEA (12)	488,581	375,832	(-112,749)	382,790	307,508	(-75,282)
DERBY (6)*	417,983	350,320	(-67,663)	530,945	257,202	(-273,743)
GRIMSBY (7)***	244,213	230,175	(-14,038)	186,946	209,419	(+22,473)
LUTON (5)	254,204	216,106	(-38,098)	282,083	224,636	(-57,447)
NEWCASTLE (11)	490,252	336,015	(-154,237)	320,320	236,412	(-83,908)
NOTTS COUNTY (2)	185,182	200,580	(+15,398)	262,026	221,334	(-40,692)
OLDHAM (15)	166,285	136,712	(-29,573)	237,809	215,295	(-22,514)
ORIENT (17)	152,138	127,591	(-24,547)	249,494	215,574	(-33,920)
PRESTON (20)	204,770	160,246	(-44,524)	262,403	211,813	(-50,590)
Q.P.R. (8)	295,820	229,663	(-66,157)	320,260	244,137	(-76,123)
SHEFF. WED. (10)***	420,633	391,104	(-29,529)	282,664	274,665	(-7,999)
SHREWSBURY (14)	184,414	117,945	(-66,469)	244,410	204,432	(-39,978)
SWANSEA (3)	302,220	276,008	(-26,212)	252,771	258,831	(+6,060)
WATFORD (9)	324,700	275,268	(-49,432)	275,210	222,195	(-53,015)
WEST HAM (1)	480,321	569,948	(+89,627)	388,470	329,363	(-59,107)
WREXHAM (16)	211,886	136,395	(-75,491)	255,687	220,344	(-35,343)

(* First Division in 1979-80)

(*** Third Division in 1979-80)

TORY OF 1980:81

2,750,000

£6 million

still top the Gates League



Once again, Manchester United's Stretford End (above) was the most populated terrace in the Football League, but at places like Queens Park Rangers (left) it was an entirely different story.

for renewal.

Of the 22 First Division clubs last season, only four showed an increase on their total home gate.

Predictably Villa (up 118,974) and Ipswich (62,992) led the way. And the attractiveness of their play also saw them draw substantially bigger crowds as visitors.

The arrival of Kevin Keegan sparked Southampton into some bigger than normal early home gates, and they managed a modest boost of 3,083.

The odd-spot was relegated Leicester's increase of 17,644 over

the previous successful promotion season.

At the other end of the scale, strife-torn Palace dipped by a massive 220,789.

Only lively West Ham (up 89,627) showed a substantial Second Division increase on their successful cruise towards becoming worthy Champions by a massive 13 points.

But — after Bristol City (192,519) — the worst Second Division decrease of 154,237 came to that traditional hot-bed of soccer enthusiasm at Newcastle.

And Chelsea's luxurious stand, let alone the terraces, was hardly over-populated with their own loss of 112,749 cash customers at hard-up Stamford Bridge.

In the Third Division, Huddersfield (up 65,184) took the honours with Southend (up 30,756) having a double celebration on their Fourth Division title.

Of the 92 League clubs, only

one-quarter — four in the First; three in the Second; seven in the Third; and nine in the Fourth — showed an increase in home gates.

All the other 69 were down — four each in the top two Divisions by as much as six-figure deficits. Even the likes of mighty Liverpool and Manchester United were down by 147,806 and 137,270 respectively.

But, although the Fourth Division showed the most gains with nine of the 24, it's there, where it can be afforded most, that the overall drop must be felt the hardest.

For their total deficit of 648,241 represents a massive dip of well over a quarter in 12 months.

Yet, while it is these little clubs

who are in the most imminent danger of collapse, if gates continue to shrink at anything like the present rate, the problem is now getting so widespread that even the strongest are beginning to suffer.

And the words of President Dunnett and the League will need to be translated into DEEDS very quickly if big-time soccer — at least on the scale to which we've been accustomed for so many years — is to survive far into the 80's.

TOTAL POST-WAR FOOTBALL LEAGUE GATES

1946-47	35,604,606
1947-48	40,259,130
1948-49	41,271,414
1949-50	40,517,865
1950-51	39,584,967
1951-52	39,015,866
1952-53	37,149,966
1953-54	36,174,590
1954-55	34,133,103
1955-56	33,150,809
1956-57	32,744,405
1957-58	33,562,208
1958-59	33,610,985
1959-60	32,538,611
1960-61	28,619,754
1961-62	27,979,902
1962-63	28,885,852
1963-64	28,535,022
1964-65	27,641,168
1965-66	27,206,980
1966-67	28,902,586
1967-68	30,107,298
1968-69	29,382,172
1969-70	29,600,972
1970-71	28,194,146
1971-72	28,700,729
1972-73	25,448,642
1973-74	24,982,203
1974-75	25,577,977
1975-76	24,896,053
1976-77	26,182,800
1977-78	25,392,872
1978-79	24,540,627
1979-80	24,623,975
1980-81	21,907,569

(1,848 games in first four seasons; 2,028 in all others apart from 1961-62 when, with Accrington resigning in mid-season, only 2,015 were played).

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME			AWAY		
	1979-80	1980-81	Difference	1979-80	1980-81	Difference
BARNLEY (2)	273,472	294,407	(+20,935)	182,214	200,941	(+18,727)
BLACKPOOL (23)	133,824	134,848	(+1,024)	157,739	146,787	(-10,952)
BRENTFORD (9)	179,822	155,297	(-24,525)	145,858	152,856	(+6,998)
BURNLEY (8)**	170,468	148,791	(-21,677)	236,123	159,911	(-76,212)
CARLISLE (19)	101,341	93,467	(-7,874)	167,439	126,641	(-40,798)
CHARLTON (3)**	150,665	165,739	(+15,074)	250,125	167,208	(-82,917)
CHESTER (18)	85,707	66,518	(-19,189)	150,711	119,141	(-31,750)
CHESTERFIELD (5)	178,483	168,616	(-9,867)	150,273	167,260	(+16,987)
COLCHESTER (22)	87,776	60,840	(-26,936)	143,418	134,671	(-8,747)
EXETER (11)	105,213	104,859	(-354)	146,974	146,292	(-682)
FULHAM (13)**	176,796	116,377	(-60,419)	270,001	153,806	(-116,195)
GILLINGHAM (15)	141,009	107,547	(-33,462)	165,826	134,441	(-31,385)
HUDDERSFIELD (4)****	200,418	265,602	(+65,184)	137,758	158,151	(+20,393)
HULL (24)	137,670	99,339	(-38,331)	160,318	144,291	(-16,027)
MILLWALL (16)	136,118	103,355	(-32,763)	161,315	145,349	(-15,966)
NEWPORT (12)****	118,187	130,701	(+12,514)	108,624	139,316	(+30,692)
OXFORD (14)	111,139	95,043	(-16,096)	143,646	131,931	(-11,715)
PLYMOUTH (7)	132,851	155,626	(+22,775)	137,083	154,215	(+17,132)
PORTSMOUTH (6)****	364,549	310,830	(-53,719)	145,178	165,541	(+20,363)
READING (10)	157,400	125,090	(-32,310)	157,223	146,508	(-10,715)
ROTHERHAM (1)	137,837	183,662	(+45,825)	153,356	190,116	(+36,760)
SHEFF. UTD (21)	381,441	293,758	(-87,683)	276,771	175,260	(-101,511)
SWINDON (17)	204,745	159,449	(-45,296)	163,276	139,400	(-23,876)
WALSALL (20)****	127,638	98,093	(-29,545)	126,525	137,821	(+11,296)

(** Second Division in 1979-80)
(**** Fourth Division in 1979-80)

FOURTH DIVISION

	HOME			AWAY		
	1979-80	1980-81	Difference	1979-80	1980-81	Difference
ALDRSHOT (6)	88,754	68,748	(-20,006)	91,858	67,854	(-24,004)
BOURNEMOUTH (13)	90,251	77,731	(-12,520)	89,367	72,887	(-16,480)
BRADFORD (14)	132,112	65,741	(-66,371)	126,037	73,430	(-52,607)
BURY (12)***	97,497	63,200	(-34,297)	155,633	70,451	(-85,182)
CREWE (18)	63,141	66,904	(+3,763)	84,488	71,959	(-12,529)
DARLINGTON (8)	45,366	58,350	(+12,984)	94,246	65,592	(-28,654)
DONCASTER (3)	99,375	124,471	(+25,096)	93,868	85,411	(-8,457)
HALIFAX (23)	59,392	44,258	(-15,134)	92,187	63,363	(-28,824)
HARTLEPOOL (9)	67,055	71,637	(+4,582)	97,808	70,961	(-26,847)
HEREFORD (22)	77,176	56,216	(-20,960)	87,740	59,544	(-28,196)
LINCOLN (2)	85,392	108,449	(+23,057)	89,012	93,343	(+4,331)
MANSFIELD (7)***	125,738	78,204	(-47,534)	138,086	74,860	(-63,226)
NORTHAMPTON (10)	69,541	53,024	(-16,517)	85,051	65,406	(-19,645)
PETERBOROUGH (5)	95,104	95,148	(+44)	97,960	72,898	(-25,062)
PORT VALE (19)	79,623	62,973	(-16,650)	78,455	85,038	(-13,417)
ROCHDALE (15)	44,305	56,576	(+12,271)	86,911	74,969	(-11,942)
SCUNTHORPE (16)	52,116	54,213	(+2,097)	86,624	69,067	(-17,557)
SOUTHEND (1)***	109,440	140,196	(+30,756)	138,242	78,943	(-59,299)
STOCKPORT (20)	66,959	53,711	(-13,248)	88,347	65,904	(-22,443)
TORQUAY (17)	73,228	47,151	(-26,077)	89,020	69,582	(-19,438)
TRANMERE (21)	51,650	43,726	(-7,924)	84,065	69,819	(-14,246)
WIGAN (11)	135,815	101,985	(-33,830)	96,388	70,488	(-25,900)
WIMBLEDON (4)***	78,802	57,133	(-21,669)	145,534	64,114	(-81,420)
YORK (24)	62,473	51,634	(-10,839)	92,103	65,496	(-26,607)

(***Third Division in 1979-80)

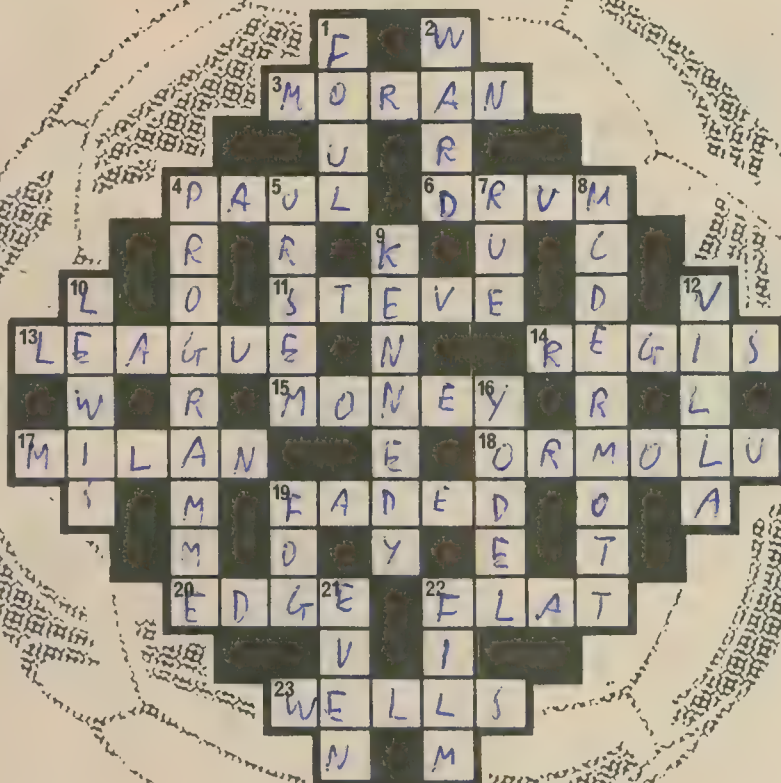
ON THE BALL CROSSWORD

ACROSS:—

- (3) Kevin —, Manchester United defender. (5)
- (4) — McGee, Preston winger. (4)
- (6) South American supporters might beat one at matches. (4)
- (11) — Foster, Brighton defender. (5)
- (13) Association of clubs. (6)
- (14) Cyrille —, West Bromwich Albion striker. (5)
- (15) Richard —, Liverpool defender. (5)
- (17) A.C. —, won the European Cup in 1963/64 & 1968/69. (5)
- (18) Take a pair of consecutive letters from the same position of each of Orient, Morton & Luton to make "gilded bronze". (6)
- (19) Gradually lost power. (5)
- (20) Stockport county play at — ley Park. (4)
- (22) Level. (4)
- (23) Peter —; Southampton keeper. (5)

DOWN:—

- (1) It can lead to a penalty. (4)
- (2) Peter —, Nottingham Forest striker. (4)
- (4) Descriptive match booklet. (9)
- (5) Look —, Stoke City mid-field player. (5)
- (7) If Wolves, Grimsby & Oldham give "LID"; what do Derby, Southend & Brechin give? (3)
- (8) Terry —, Liverpool mid-field player. (9)
- (9) Keith —, Bury player. (7)
- (10) Dudley —, Swansea City defender. (5)
- (12) Ricardo —, Spurs' star. (5)
- (16) Sing like a Swiss or Austrian supporter, perhaps. (5)
- (19) Weather condition which makes play difficult. (3)
- (21) Equal. (4)
- (22) On which the match might be recorded. (4)



ANSWERS ON PAGE 36

A feast of fun and thrills...

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TIGER

HOLIDAY SPECIAL



'PROCTOR'S GOOD FOR FOREST'



ALTHOUGH he's obviously made a big impact in the North-East, you can expect the career of Mark Proctor to really take off when he joins Nottingham Forest.

The finer details of the deal have to be sorted out yet with Forest and Middlesbrough in dispute over a fee . . . and it looks like that might have to be settled by tribunal.

But if, as expected, Brian Clough and Peter Taylor get their man, he's at the right age and possesses enough ability to really make a name for himself.

Players in the North-East don't seem to get the same exposure as those say in London, Liverpool or Manchester but there is no doubt that Mark was a really big favourite

at Ayresome Park.

I understand he made his debut for them when he was just 17 and has been a regular ever since . . . and that says much for his potential at a time when Middlesbrough have been establishing themselves in the First Division.

Mark's midfield partnership with Craig Johnston and the vastly experienced David Armstrong has obviously been one of the reasons for Middlesbrough consolidating their position in the top flight.

Now that partnership is breaking up, with Johnston leaving for Liverpool and Proctor on the move as well.

Of the two players Johnston appears to have caught the eye but those people who see Middlesbrough regularly put Proctor in the same bracket.

He's already proved his international potential by playing for England Under-21 and under the Clough-Taylor management his skills will no doubt be given every chance to blossom.

'Saints-but for how much longer?'

By a quirk of fate the fixture computer has come up with a Nottingham Forest v Southampton fixture to start next season.

It was Southampton, by winning their final match of last season at Ipswich, who beat Forest to set up their chances of playing in European football again.

When Liverpool beat Real Madrid in the European Cup Final, it meant that Southampton were in next season's UEFA Cup, and it would be interesting to find out how much that influenced Lawrie McMenemy in his decision to stay on the South Coast.

Most people in football expected him to take the Manchester United

job when it was offered to him but he obviously feels that he has got something special going at Southampton.

They have got a highly-experienced team together on the field, improvements are taking place to the ground and clearly Lawrie feels that Southampton are heading for big things.

He'll be hoping that if Kevin Keegan (pictured against Forest's Einar Aas) can steer clear of injuries it will inspire Southampton into the kind of season when they could confirm the promise they have shown from time to time as Championship material.

As I say, though, Southampton are largely an experienced side and although players are capable of continuing their careers much longer than the public realise at times, McMenemy might have to be thinking of making changes in the not too distant future.

That's why next season will be so important to them with a few players reaching out for more glory before they come to the end of their careers.



Mark Proctor

IN the traditionally conservative world of football, the news that Queens Park Rangers will kick-off the new season on a plastic pitch has caused quite a sensation in soccer circles.

On the day they unveiled their synthetic 'OmniTurf' pitch, representatives of some 30 League clubs went along to take a closer look.

But while Rangers boss Terry Venables was understandably enthusiastic about what he described as the club's 'magic carpet', others were not quite so keen.

PFA Chairman Alan Gowling was one of the few players to take up Rangers' invitation to test their new surface.

"Obviously I can't pass judgment on this until we have seen a proper game, but at the moment I am pleasantly surprised," he said.

"Football has always been too slow to accept change, and anything which benefits the game, particularly from a commercial aspect, has to be worth trying.

"But from a players' point of view, I would expect there to be a greater number of injuries on this kind of pitch.

"Burns are clearly going to be the major problem, and it may be necessary for players to follow the lead of the Americans — I believe that many of them wear ladies tights.

"The knees, ankles and Achilles areas will all be vulnerable on a pitch like this, and I would hate to do a full-blooded slide tackle,

and flatness of the OmniTurf pitch encourages fast, skilful players, which will certainly make for more exciting viewing at Loftus Road.

But from a goalkeeper's view, this new pitch could be a nightmare.

Chelsea's Petar Borota tested the polypropylene fibre pitch and said: "The ball travels so fast, and bounces so much higher, that it is sure to give 'keepers problems.

"There will definitely be an increase of goals here, and from a professional view that is a bad thing.

"But I have always believed that football should be more entertaining, so this has to be good for the game."

At the moment, Rangers' entry to next season's F.A. Cup has only

been provisionally accepted, while UEFA will not allow European football at Loftus Road and Alan Gowling believes their promotion challenge could falter under the weight of the extra injuries he predicts on the new plastic grass.

But at a time when the game of football is under greater pressure than at any other time in its history, it is encouraging to see a club actually taking positive action to bring the crowds back through the turnstiles.

Although the traditionalists may not agree, the national game of Britain is currently at its lowest ebb. Anything which seeks to improve football has to be welcomed if not with open arms, at least with a sympathetic attitude.

RANGERS' MAGIC CARPET



which is going to make it tougher for defenders.

"I would say that this is the ideal pitch to learn ball skills on, but I'm not so sure if it's ideal for football," concludes Gowling.

Certainly the Rangers' supporters seem convinced that this new pitch is right for football, as an encouraging increase in season ticket sales indicates.

At a cost of just £320,000, Rangers have not only gained an all-weather playing surface, but will also be able to bring in extra revenue from pop concerts and other extra-curricular activities.

On the footballing side, the pace

RIGHT: Q.P.R. boss Terry Venables makes a closer inspection of his club's new synthetic pitch.

LEFT: Chelsea 'keeper Petar Borota tests the various forms of footwear available for the artificial grass.



SHOOT/ADMIRAL ENGLAND SHIRTS COMPETITION RESULT

In our Admiral England Shirts Competition in May 23 issue, readers were invited to answer three questions about England stars; Trevor Francis, Steve Coppell and Paul Mariner. The correct answers were:

1 — His 20th full England cap; 2 — 1977; 3 — Luxembourg.

The senders of the ten correct entries judged to be the neatest, with age taken into account, receive an authentic Admiral England Shirt autographed by members of the squad. They are: Gerard Birmingham, Stevenage; David Bloxham, Wolverhampton; Paul Donaldson, Stoke-on-Trent; Gary Dudman, Midhurst; Lee Juler, Spennymoor; Robin Mann, Market Drayton; John Murray, Hexham; Wayne Pinney, Leicester; Michael Sherlock, Gloucester; Chris Sorrell, Southend.

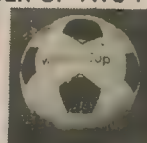
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WEST Ham United resume their First Division life on August 29th determined to prove that the percentage of 'golden oldies' in their side is not, as many people fear, too high.

The Hammers' triumphant march out of the Second Division as runaway Champions was achieved with that blend of youth and experience most top managers advocate.

But while the League's top section looks tailor-made for the talented likes of Alan Devonshire, Paul Allen, Ray Stewart, Alvin Martin and Paul Goddard, a logical

question mark must hang over the First Division prospects of the five senior players who face season 1981-82 knowing they will never see 30 again.

The players, however, resent suggestions that their ages will go against them. In fact they believe the opposite, as former England goalkeeper Phil Parkes explained in forceful terms.

Parkes, 31 next month, put a positive slant on the contribution he believes will be made by Frank Lampard, Billy Bonds, Trevor Brooking and David Cross as well as by himself.

Parkes said: "For one thing the modern professional is a very fit man. Players are no longer

'finished' around their 30's, as was once believed. And if you go through the top First Division outfits now you will find that their key players are far from babes!

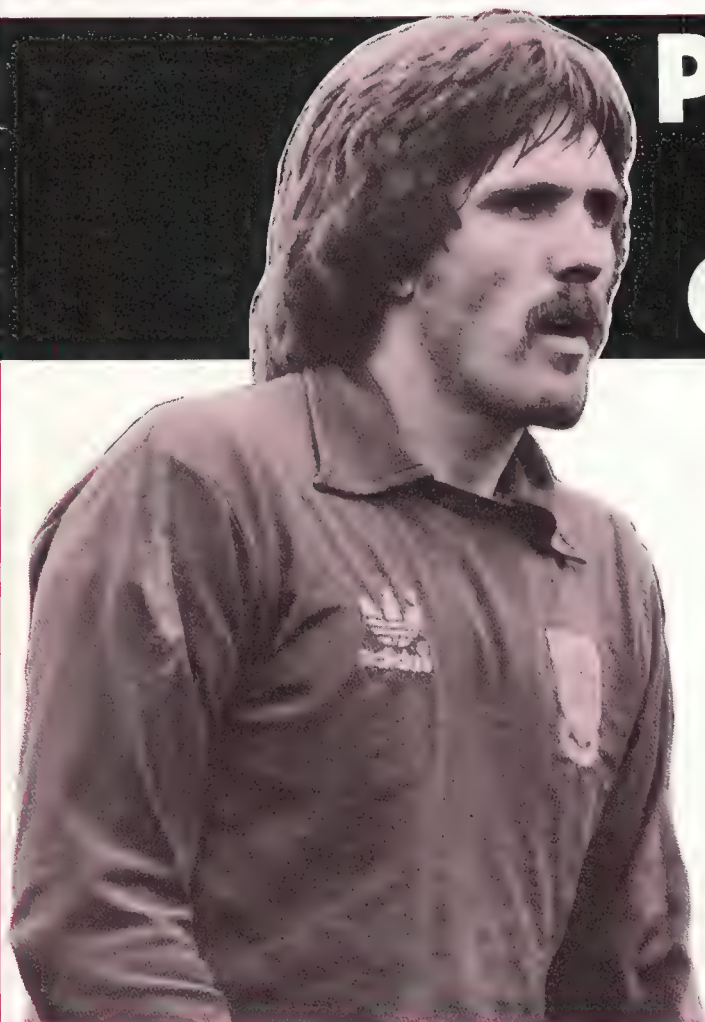
"All of us have played in the First Division before. We have the experience, the background knowledge and the confidence to give the whole side a solid and properly-paced start. What forwards are going to surprise Billy Bonds, Frank Lampard or me? And which defenders are likely to overawe David Cross and Trevor Brooking?

"We won the F.A. Cup in 1980, gave Liverpool two tremendous games in last season's League Cup Final, and the Charity Shield

SECOND DIV. 1980-81

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 West Ham	42	28	10	4	79	29	66
2 Notts County	42	18	17	7	49	38	53
3 Swansea	42	18	14	10	64	44	50
4 Blackburn	42	16	18	8	42	29	50
5 Luton	42	18	12	12	61	46	48
6 Derby	42	15	15	12	57	52	45
7 Grimsby	42	15	15	12	44	42	45
8 Q.P.R.	42	15	13	14	56	46	43
9 Watford	42	16	11	15	50	45	43
10 Sheff. Wed.	42	17	8	17	53	51	42
11 Newcastle	42	14	14	14	30	45	42
12 Chelsea	42	14	12	16	46	41	40
13 Cambridge	42	17	6	19	53	65	40

PARKES DEFENDS HAMMERS' GOLDEN OLDIES



match, and we made the Second Division our own. We have shown some class in Europe and were far from disgraced when beaten in the Cup-Winners' Cup by Tbilisi.

"No, to those who believe that we have too many senior players I say you have the whole situation upside down. Nothing can better the experience of playing in the First Division, especially, as is the case with all of us, when that experience includes seasons of struggling for survival.

'Springboard'

"I am convinced that our achievements over the past few seasons will act as the right kind of springboard for everyone. I know that we senior lads are itching to compete as First Division players again. I agree that for all of us the future is comparatively limited, especially at that level. But with that in mind we all have something to prove and so much to play for."

The success at Upton Park has

led to international honours for Alvin Martin, Ray Stewart and, of course, Trevor Brooking, but Parkes will never again play for his country.

"My international career is over. I have spoken with Ron Greenwood and explained my point of view. He understood, and there are no bad feelings.

"I have seen a big chunk of the world and been on many England trips without playing. Now I have decided to concentrate on my club-career, and the decision is a big relief to me.

"All of which leaves me with this coming season as my main target. I want to make it the best of my career and I believe we, as a team, can make it memorable.

"We have a discipline and an edge now, as well as the traditional attacking, entertaining style of play.

"This is the mixture of factors necessary to do well in the First Division, as I am sure we 'golden oldies' will begin to show in August."

'Fenton's Furies'

AT the end of the 1973-74 season, Middlesbrough won the Second Division Championship with 65 points, a post-War record. Now West Ham have broken that record, achieving a fine total of 66 points.

West Ham have won the Second Division once before, and on that occasion, season 1957-58, they also did it in style. Under manager Ted Fenton (pictured), they scored 101 League goals with a side which included Malcolm Allison, John Bond and current Hammers coach Ernie Gregory.

The comparisons between that side nicknamed 'Fenton's Furies' and today's exciting team are

quite obvious. Ted Fenton, himself a former Hammers defender who now runs a sports goods shop in Brentwood, Essex, recalls: "When I was manager, we had something we called 'bite'. I think it's called 'steel' nowadays, and that's how the present team plays.

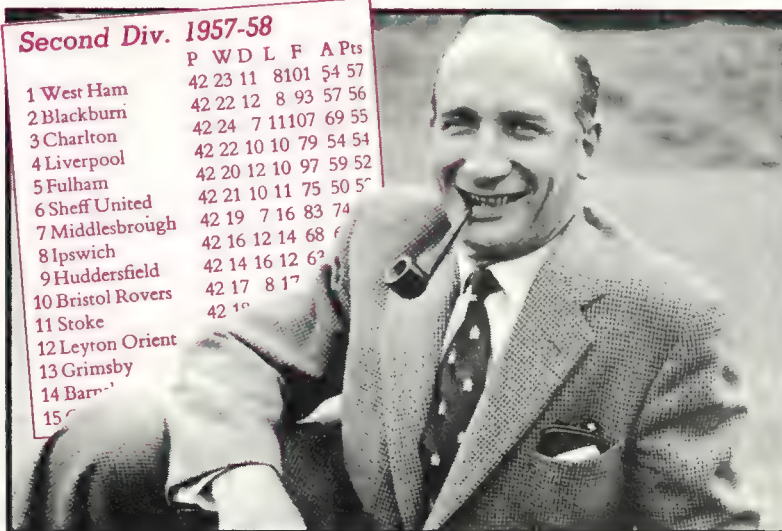
"Everybody fought for the ball because all the players wanted to be part of a successful, but at the same time, attractive team. That is why they won promotion."

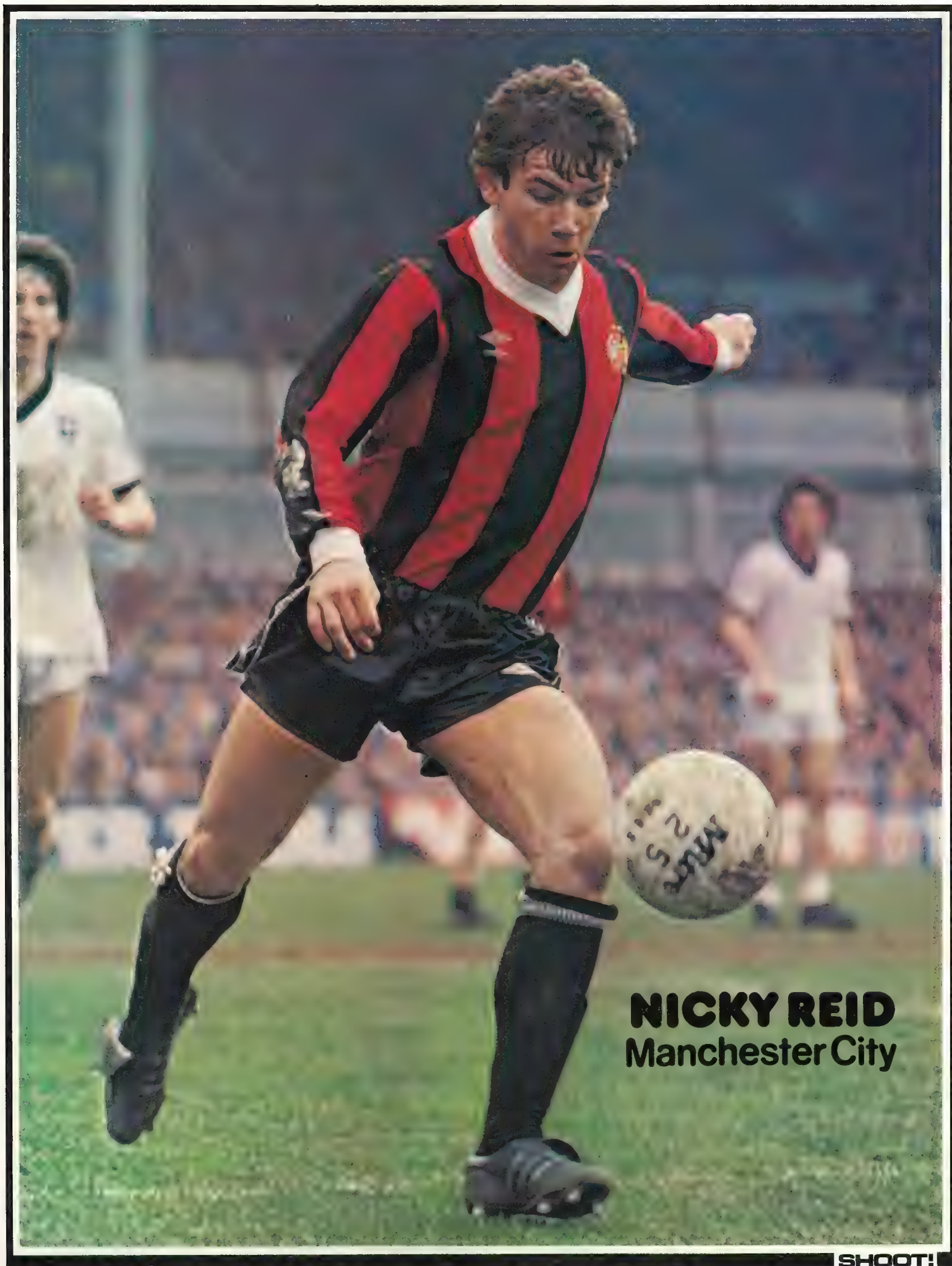
Fenton claims that his side was a forerunner in style and pattern to the top sides in Britain today.

And more than anything he would like to see more West Ham success.

Second Div. 1957-58

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 West Ham	42	23	11	8	101	54	57
2 Blackburn	42	22	12	8	93	57	56
3 Charlton	42	24	7	11	107	69	55
4 Liverpool	42	22	10	10	79	54	54
5 Fulham	42	20	12	10	97	59	52
6 Sheff United	42	21	10	11	75	50	50
7 Middlesbrough	42	19	7	16	83	74	49
8 Ipswich	42	16	12	14	68	66	48
9 Huddersfield	42	14	16	12	62	63	47
10 Bristol Rovers	42	17	8	17			47
11 Stoke	42	10					40
12 Leyton Orient							
13 Grimsby							
14 Barnsley							
15							





NICKY REID
Manchester City

SHOOT!

GERRY DALY
Coventry



SHOOT!

Argentine soccer going bankrupt

THE financial crisis in Argentine football is getting worse as the peso continues to nose-dive against the dollar at a rate of more than six per cent every month.

The problem is that players' wages, transfer fees and ticket prices are calculated in dollars, with the result that the clubs are finding that their wage bills have shot up by 30 per cent or more in a matter of weeks.

And outfits like Boca Juniors and River Plate, who are up to their ears in debt after signing

Maradona and Kempes, find that the cash they owe in dollars seems to be multiplying at an alarming rate.

In a bid to raise the cash, ticket prices have gone up by as much as 60 per cent — and naturally the fans have simply started to stay away.

The number of tickets sold at First Division games dropped from just over 8,000 to a mere 6,300, and the authorities have reported a 40 per cent drop in gate receipts.

To give you some idea of the

extent of the problem, Boca Juniors' contract with Diego Maradona (right) stipulated a monthly salary of 60,000 dollars (£30,000). At that stage the dollar was worth 3,200 pesos, and Boca budgeted 192,000,000 pesos for Maradona's annual wage bill.

Now the dollar is worth 4,200 pesos, and Maradona's annual salary has shot up to 252,000,000 pesos.

Suddenly Boca have got to find an extra 60,000,000 pesos just to pay Maradona's wages!



RUSSIA'S most famous footballer, Oleg Blokhin, has hit the Soviet record books after his 153rd League goal for Dynamo Kiev against Spartak Moscow.

The goal broke the scoring record held by Torpedo Moscow striker Alexander Ponomarev since way back in 1951.

Blokhin is now 28, and it looks as though he'll go on to set future record-breakers a tough target.



Brazil snub to Menotti

ARGENTINIAN MANAGER Cesar Luis Menotti has issued another challenge to Brazil: he wants to play against them before the World Cup Finals. But again his challenge has been completely ignored by the Brazilian Football Association.

Menotti, who followed Brazil to England, France and West Germany, seems worried by the fact that the Brazilians right now have a psychological edge over the Argentinians.

In fact, the last time Argentina managed to beat Brazil was in March, 1970; over 11 years ago.

Before the game against West Germany, Menotti said that Germany had the best team in the world.

"They are better than Brazil and even better than Argentina," admitted Menotti, "by a two goal difference."

Menotti was certain the Germans were going to prove, playing at home, that the 4-1 Brazil win in Montevideo in January had been a fluke.

But Brazil won 2-1 and now have the impressive record of seven victories, two draws and only one defeat in nine games with the Germans (who managed their only victory over Brazil 13 years ago). Menotti now says Brazil are "level" with Argentina.

Menotti feels that Brazil are "taboo" to his players and would welcome the opportunity to break the spell before the World Cup in Spain. The Brazilians are saying nothing.

FISCHER PINNED DOWN

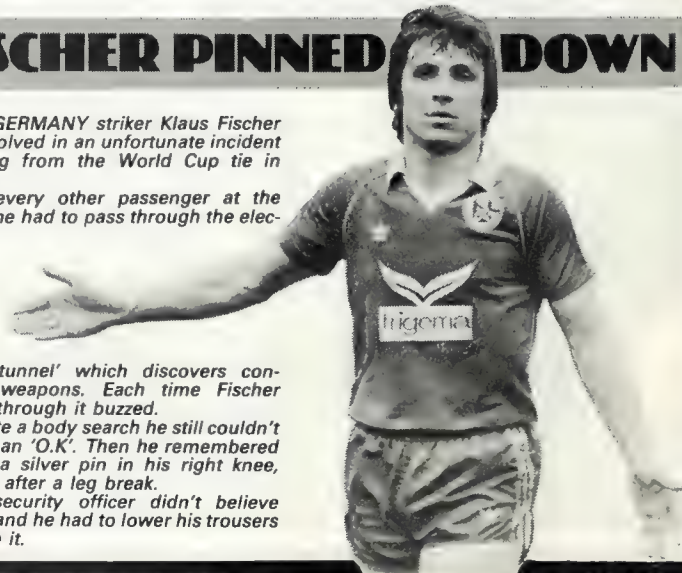
WEST GERMANY striker Klaus Fischer was involved in an unfortunate incident returning from the World Cup tie in Finland.

Like every other passenger at the airport he had to pass through the elec-

tronic 'tunnel' which discovers concealed weapons. Each time Fischer walked through it buzzed.

Despite a body search he still couldn't register an 'O.K.'. Then he remembered he has a silver pin in his right knee, inserted after a leg break.

The security officer didn't believe Fischer and he had to lower his trousers to prove it.



RIOCH STUNG

CHICAGO television viewers could hardly believe their eyes. Neither could Bruce Rioch of the Seattle Sounders.

There was Rioch (who's since moved to Torquay), squaring off against Chicago's Arno Steffenhagen towards the end of the game. Both were going at each other when suddenly there whooshed in a giant bumble bee to separate the two in the nick of time!

A heavenly angel of peace? No, in reality it was burly Chicago truckdriver Bob Stachler in his "Stanley Sting" bumble bee outfit, the Sting's mascot.

And how can you continue a fight when a bumble bee's making you laugh?



MARINHO MUGGED

FRANCISCO MARINHO, now back in Brazil with Sao Paulo after a spell in New York with the Cosmos, ran into trouble on a recent visit to Rio's famous Copacabana district. While the blond full-back was strolling through a side-street he was attacked by three armed men who stripped him of cash and valuables totalling £1,500.

ONE doesn't tend to think of Denmark as World Cup Finalists. Chances are they won't be in Spain next summer, but their 3-1 win over Italy certainly raised a few eyebrows — not least in Italy.

The Italians and Yugoslavia will, no doubt, be the two qualifiers from Group Five, but the Danes are still on a 'high' after one of their most celebrated victories.

Before the game, striker Allan Simonsen said: "This is definitely our last chance. If we get one point tonight I'll consider it a sensation."

"If we win it will be the subject of conversation for years. If we lose we're finished in the World Cup."

Goals by Rontved, Arnesen and Bastrup powered Denmark to a fully deserved 3-1 triumph. Afterwards Simonsen (seen here in action during the big game) commented: "It was wonderful to play in an international without being nervous. Nobody expected anything from us."

"We fought for the few people on the terraces who believed in us. We played like a real team. Now, it's even more annoying to have lost to Greece last year. Had we won I feel we could have qualified."

It was the first time Italy had conceded three goals since they lost 3-1 to Holland six and a half years ago. And before the Denmark game they hadn't conceded a goal in their previous eight matches.

IN the final run-in to the Championship in Czechoslovakia, reigning champions Banik Ostrava were the only team to win away (1-0 at Kosice) in the 26th round, but were matched by the smallest crowd of the Czech season so far — only 530.

Goal-king Quini

BARCELONA finally clinched a place in next term's European competition by winning the Spanish Cup. They beat Sporting Gijón 3-1 in an attractive Final, with their first two goals ironically coming from central striker Quini — the man Barcelona signed a year ago in a £515,000 deal with . . . Sporting Gijón.

The goals brought Quini's goal-tally to 29 in League and Cup — not a bad haul for a man who was out of action for a month in a bizarre kidney episode.

For the record, Esteban scored Barcelona's third with a fine solo effort, and Maceda had briefly equalised for Gijón early in the second half.



VfB STUTTGART finished fourth in the Bundesliga and are the only club in their League to give the players a bonus based on the season's gate receipts. Each player collected an extra £12,000 gate-bonus, but with attendances down almost everywhere in West Germany the VfB players lost out. In 1977 each Stuttgart player received a cheque for £21,000 gate bonus.

'Pay your hotel bill if you lose'

PLAY UP or pay up . . . that was the order for star-studded Inter Milan before they went out to play a prestige friendly in Hong Kong.

The Inter management wanted to make sure they didn't lose to Happy Valley, a local First Division side. So they told their highly-paid players they would charge them for their hotel if they lost.

Thankfully, they were saved the embarrassment of dipping into their own pockets with a 1-0 win.

Mind you, Inter must have been worried when they saw their opponents line-up — it included three on-loan players from West Bromwich Albion.

The trio were England's Bryan Robson, 'keeper Tony Godden and striker Cyrille Regis. Robson was the star of the evening while Regis missed an open goal . . . and finished limping, after trying to break in a new pair of boots.

The team members of Happy Valley, had their names put on the backs of their shirts for the friendly match with Inter Milan . . . but even then there was a snag.

One player's name was so unpronounceable that he was known as 'WINGER' in big capital letters.

...but the end for Bettenga

THE defeat in Denmark almost certainly signalled the end of Roberto Bettenga's international career. The 30-year-old Juventus striker was mercilessly criticised in the Press afterwards; he was substituted when Denmark took a two-goal lead.

"Bettenga has nothing more to give to Italy," said one headline. It ended what has been the worst-ever season for the player. He scored just five goals, and two of those were penalties.

His decline started after the 1978 World Cup. The following season he played much deeper, out of the firing line. In the three seasons since Argentina Bettenga has played 83 games, scoring 30 goals, of which five were penalties. In the previous three seasons his record was 43 goals (one penalty) in 89 matches.

The Italians feel that at 30 Bettenga should be at his peak; in their opinion, he is now past it.

Nine-a-side soccer

HEINZ HOHER, manager coach of Fortuna Dusseldorf, is pressing an interesting change of Laws on FIFA which, though novel, has no chance of being accepted.

Herr Hoher claims that attendances are down in the Bundesliga because fans are tired of seeing good players denied space to play in.

To make the spaces on the pitch bigger, and the game therefore easier to play, the Fortuna boss is suggesting that teams should be reduced from 11 to nine men!

HEAVY SENTENCES

THERE'S huge controversy in Spain following a decision by the authorities in Extremadura to dish out harsh sentences on four Espanol players sent-off during a game against Atletico Madrid.

Canito (a Barcelona player on loan to Espanol) was fined £850 and suspended for four months for trying to beat up the referee.

Longhi was fined £550 and suspended for 11 weeks for much of the same offence.

Escalza was fined £225 and suspended for one month after insulting the referee.

And Huertas was fined £110 and suspended for two weeks for showing disrespect to the referee.

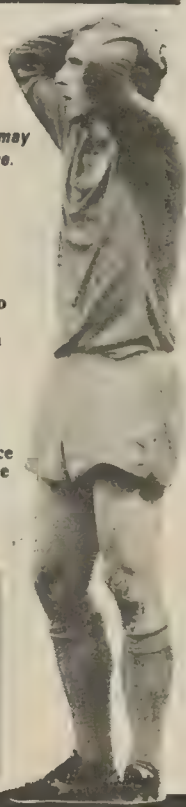
Bastia shock

HUMBLE Bastia were the shock winners of the French Cup, beating red-hot favourites St-Etienne thanks to goals from Marcialis and Milla in the 50th and 58th minutes.

St-Etienne had been confident of notching up their fifth League and Cup double, but their only success was a Santini penalty in the 72nd minute.

So Bastia, the Corsican club with an average gate of 2,000, are on the European trail again, five years after they stunned the continent by reaching the Final of the UEFA Cup.

● Bettenga shows his dismay during the Denmark game.



FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"Roughly translated, Cardew, it says 'United Rule OK?'"



"Do you always have to discuss your financial arrangements with the club in there?"



"I could tell he wasn't well when he fell asleep during the football . . ."



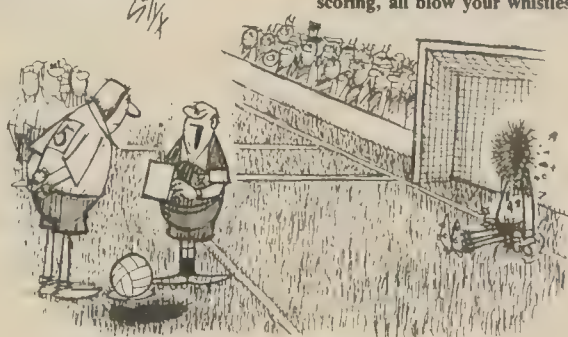
This week Paul Price, Tottenham's recent £250,000 signing from Luton Town, selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx



"Dare you to give one of this lot a parking ticket."



"And remember, if their lot look like scoring, all blow your whistles."



"Just because he made a fantastic save from your last penalty . . ."

All jokes are Styx originals and copyright to IPC Magazines Ltd and must not be copied or reproduced without the Editor's permission



John Bond's first meeting with Ron Greenwood, accompanied by West Ham team-mates Ken Brown (left) and Bobby Moore.

in the Second Division — stretching from before the Second World War — was ended when they won promotion in 1957/58, soon after the birth of son Kevin.

By this time 'Muffin' — the title West Ham fans had bestowed on Bond because of his mule-like kicking — had begun to get among the honours.

He was chosen for an F.A. tour of South Africa, but was forced to come home early after sustaining knee ligament damage that put him out for three months.

He also played for the Football League and England 'B' and admits now that only the streak of indiscipline that was still in him pre-

WHY ENGLAND'S BEST

JOHNSON managed just one game in the West Ham first team during his early days at Upton Park. He played at Coventry and helped The Hammers to a 2-1 win.

"That result was cause for a typical East End knees up," he recalls. "For West Ham did not win too many away matches in those days."

And to this day he still has a letter from Ted Fenton congratulating him on a fine debut.

But it was not enough to keep him in the team. He was out for the following match and had to wait patiently for his chance again.

In the meantime his love for Janet developed and they were married in July, 1954, setting up home in a terraced house just round the corner from the West Ham ground.

Daughter Toni arrived a year later as Bond's career really began to take off. West Ham had a lot of good players at that time and getting a regular place in their side was not easy.

But he managed it in the 1954/55 season — and never looked back for the next ten years.

Coaching Academy

And it was in this period that something happened to deeply influence his philosophy on how football should be played... the forming of the West Ham 'coaching academy'.

Upton Park was full of characters who thought a lot about the game and talked for hours about it

— Malcolm Allison, Dave Sexton, Noel Cantwell, Frank O'Farrell and Jimmy Andrews among them.

This, remember, was in the days before footballers were earning big money. There was no such thing as training grounds then. All the work was done at Upton Park and the players used to travel there on public transport.

When the morning's work was done the players used to adjourn to Cassettari's cafe, just behind the ground in Barking Road, to talk for hours about the game.

They would clear the table and use the salt and pepper pots as 'players' as they tossed ideas about for improving things.

Allison was a fanatic for these sessions. And Bond admits that Big Mal has influenced his thinking on the game more than anyone else.

So it was ironic that, some 25 years later, he should take over

from his idol as manager of Manchester City.

Muffin the Mule

West Ham — for so long regarded as the great entertainers who won friends, and nothing else, really began to emerge as a force at this stage and a long spell

vented him winning a full cap.

There was certainly not a better right-back around at the time and if Bond had only showed more dedication and application he would surely have broken through to the senior England side.

"If my players behaved now like I did then I would have them out of the door like a shot," he claims.



The highlight of John Bond's playing career, following West Ham's 1964 victory in the F.A. Cup Final. Bond is on the extreme left.

Fenton Out — Greenwood In

"But at the time I honestly did not blame myself for my approach to the game. I thought it was the fault of other people, and it was not until Ron Greenwood replaced Ted Fenton as manager at West Ham in 1961 that the facts of life were rammed home to me.

"Ron is one of the greatest tacticians the game has ever known and I learned so much from him it was not true. We had our differences, of course, but my attitude to everything changed dramatically under him."

That new attitude earned Bond an F.A. Cup winners' medal in 1964, when he was in The Hammers team that beat Preston 3-2 at Wembley.

Hopes of following that up with a European Cup-Winners' Cup medal looked bright when he helped them through the early rounds of the campaign.

But he lost his place to Joe Kirkup for the Semi-Final and was no more than a spectator as West Ham took the trophy by beating TSV Munich 2-0 in a classic also played at Wembley.

A year later, in 1966, Bond left West Ham after 17 years to play out the rest of his career at Torquay.

But the coaching bug had now bitten him deeply. That was the side of the game he wanted to get into — and in 1969 he got his big chance.

The following year he suffered the heartbreak of finishing third in the Third Division at a time when only two went up. And to make matters worse, they collected the highest number of points of any team failing to win promotion.

By now the Bond style of management, with the emphasis on open, attacking, crowd-pleasing football was bringing him to the attention of the bigger clubs.

His willingness to talk openly about the game he loved did not always endear him to people. But the teams he produced showed he had the ability to match his words.

The Buccaneer

His chance to move into the big time came in November, 1973, when Ron Saunders walked out on Norwich.

The buccaneering Bond was the man Norwich turned to. He accepted the job, then changed his mind and it needed an almighty rocket from Lawrie McMenemy — his South Coast neighbour at Southampton — to finally persuade him to go.

Norwich were more or less doomed to relegation when Bond took over and there was nothing

he could do to stop them slipping back into the Second Division.

But he systematically tore the team to pieces and rebuilt with names like Ted McDougall, Mel Machin and Martin Peters to take Norwich back to the top flight at the first attempt.

And he also took them to Wembley for a League Cup Final appearance against Aston Villa — now managed by Ron Saunders. That ended with a 1-0 defeat, Ray Graydon scoring Villa's winner.

Bond continued to work miracles by establishing Norwich in the First Division on a low budget — a feat that earned him admiration from wealthier clubs.

He longed more and more for the chance to work at a really big set-up to show what he could do with world class players. He decided that Birmingham was not big enough when they came in, turning down a job that eventually went to Jim Smith.

Shrewd Buys

But when Manchester City sacked Allison last October and asked Bond to take over it was the chance he had been waiting for. He had no hesitation in moving in at a club who — like Norwich when he went there — seemed to be heading for the Second Division.

It is now history that City got out of trouble to finish in a respectable position — and went to Wembley to face Tottenham in an F.A. Cup Final they lost 3-2 in a replay.

Bond has finally got what he wants, what he has worked so hard for — and what he deserves. He is determined to take City right to the top and put them amongst the honours. It would be a brave man who backs against him.



Bond celebrates City's F.A. Cup victory over Crystal Palace with former Maine Road boss Malcolm Allison.

RIGHT~BACK NEVER WON A FULL CAP

Norwich — another club to figure prominently in his life — had a vacancy and he went up for an interview. He asked for £35 a week, they were not prepared to pay more than £30... so he turned them down.

Bournemouth Boss

He went instead to Gillingham, where he could afford to work for less because he had no need to move from the house in Upton Park where he still lived.

After a year there under manager Basil Haywood he got the chance to move into management at Bournemouth.

The money Bond spent in bringing quality players to Dean Court had the rest of the lower Divisions opened mouthed in amazement. He moved like a whirlwind — knowing what he wanted and getting it.

It paid a quick dividend. For he swept Bournemouth out of the Fourth Division in his first season with a style of football that filled the ground every week.



The 1981 F.A. Cup Final, where City were unfortunate to lose 3-2 to Spurs in a closely-fought replay at Wembley.

TAKE A BREAK—IT'S

Quiz Time

DEFENDERS

1. Before becoming player-manager of Fourth Division Wigan Athletic Larry Lloyd played for four other League clubs ... can you name them?
2. Tottenham recently paid £250,000 to Second Division Luton Town for which international defender?
3. A Scottish Premier Division full-back who has spent his entire career with one club, which he also captains, is a regular in the full Scotland side. Can you identify him?



4. Arsenal's David O'Leary (above) made his international debut for the Republic of Ireland against England, Scotland or Wales?

5. Ron and Paul Futcher are twins. Which one is the recognised defender?

JUMBLED SKIPPERS

Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the names of some of the game's top skippers and their clubs.

1. LLEWILLRIME (EEBNADR)
2. VESETRRAPENYM
3. LIHPPOOTNSMH (OLLOV-PIRE)
4. LYALWNDOSA (GSREARN)
5. LYLBSNODB (SWTEAMH)
6. NSNIDEMMRREIOT
7. HJNOLIWE (TEWSMBOR)
8. VEDAIYSEAH (OOTMRN)
9. ULAPPREWO (REMAN-TSECHTYC)
10. ICKMLLSIM (CPSIIHW)

MANAGERS

1. Keith Burkinshaw is the fourth, fifth or sixth Tottenham manager since the last War?
2. Who recently took over as manager of Stoke City?
3. Gerry Summers was sacked as boss of which Third Division club at the end of the 1980-81 season?
4. Manchester United are Ron Atkinson's second, third or fourth League club as a manager?
5. Mike Bailey (right) was appointed boss of which club recently after a spell in charge of Charlton Athletic?



COMPUTER PUZZLE DAVE WATSON

Programme this star player by plugging the gaps in his career.



1. He began his League career with _____, where he made 23 League appearances.
2. During 1969, _____, manager of Rotherham United, paid £1,000 for him.
3. After 121 League games he was on the move again when he was transferred to _____
4. He later joined Manchester City before being sold to _____ in the West German Bundesliga.
5. Watson made his full England international debut against _____ in April, 1974.

Computer performance rating:
5 Superb;
4 Excellent;
3 Good.

TRUE OR FALSE?



1. Celtic won the European Cup the season after Manchester United's triumph in 1968.

F

2. Scottish Premier Division side Morton (pictured left) are nicknamed The Gable Endies.

F

3. Sir Stanley Matthews was the first European Footballer of the Year winner in 1956.

T

4. Coventry City have never won the First Division Championship.

T

5. Rochdale finished higher than Hartlepool in the Fourth Division table last season.

F

ANSWERS:

DEFENDERS: 1. Bristol Rovers, 2. Liverpool, 3. Coventry, 4. Aston Villa, 5. John Mortimer (West Ham), 6. Dennis Bonds (West Ham), 7. John Mortimer (Aston Villa), 8. David White (West Brom), 9. Paul Power (Hull City), 10. Mick Mills (Manchester City).
TRUE OR FALSE: 1. False — they won it the year before United, 2. False — Montrose are known as the Gable Endies, 3. True, 4. True, 5. False — Hartlepool finished above them.
JUMBLED SKIPPERS: 1. Willie Miller (Aberdeen), 2. Steve Perry (Sunderland), 3. Phil Thompson (Liverpool), 4. Ally Ryan (Tottenham), 5. Portugal.
COMPUTER PUZZLE: 1. Nottingham Forest, 2. Tommy Docherty, 3. County, 4. Werder Bremen, 5. Sunderland, 6. Werder Bremen, 7. Brighton.

On the Ball answers

ACROSS:— (3) Moran, (4) Paul, (6) Drum, (11) Steve, (13) League, (14) Régis, (15) Money, (17) Milan, (18) Ormolu, (19) Faded, (20) Edge, (22) Flat, (23) Wells.
DOWN:— (1) Foul, (2) Ward, (4) Programme, (5) Ursem, (7) Rue, (8) McDermott, (9) Kennedy, (10) Lewis, (12) Villa, (16) Yodel, (19) Fog, (21) Even, (22) Film.

IPSWICH manager Bobby Robson is planning a close-season plunge into the transfer market to reinforce his UEFA Cup winning squad for the new campaign.

But don't expect a dramatic, big-money move from the Portman Road boss whose record cash deal is the modest £200,000 he paid to Millwall for 19-year-old Eire winger Kevin O'Callaghan in January last year.

Says Robson: "I'd like to sign a good squad player for next season, someone who will cost a realistic price but who would not be guaranteed a regular first team place. Believe me, it's easier said than done."

"The squad system is ideal in principle but it never seems like that to the players who are not in the team. It is a problem keeping 16 players happy when you've only got room for 11 each week."

Robson's target is the type of player who would relish the challenge of joining a club who are almost certain to be among the front-runners for the major honours and who would have to be patient about knocking on the first team door for a regular place.

Injuries to key players was one of the main factors behind the late Ipswich collapse last season after they had led the First Division for a long spell.

Now Robson is determined to mount another challenge for the top prize although he rightly points out: "I can't possibly legis-

late for injuries. That's the unknown factor in our game."

"Most of the leading sides can cope without two or maybe even three regulars. But there were times towards the end of last season when we had to battle on without as many as five top players, all of them internationals."

"I don't mean to knock the lads who came in temporarily. They did their best but the rhythm of the side was upset and that was what proved crucial."

'Bad Luck'

"Next season, hopefully, we'll be let off a bit more lightly. George Burley should be back after missing the final four months of last season and we'll be looking for a bit more from Kevin Beattie, who has had some desperately bad luck."

With youngsters like Steve McCall, the Ipswich 'find' of the season, and Kevin Steggles grabbing a place in the squad alongside the many big-name stars, it is easy to see why Robson fancies his side's chances.

"Last time we had a great start, a solid middle and a disappointing end to the League campaign. That was why we failed to win the title, so next season we'll be looking for the first two plus a breathtaking

finish," he grins.

"But it's never easy. When you're on top the others want to knock you off your perch. And as the season draws to an end you find other teams snapping at your heels, determined not to let go."

"Really, any team with hopes of winning the Championship cannot afford to have an unproductive period, a spell when they lose a few games on the trot. There's very little room for any slip-ups."

Robson is eagerly awaiting the big kick-off — and Ipswich fans are delighted that he will still be at Portman Road after having his pick of a number of top jobs that became available towards the end of last season.

He could have gone to Sunderland, Everton or Manchester United but instead opted to remain with the homely Suffolk club where he inherited the reins in January, 1969, and has since transformed into one of Europe's leading outfits.

"It was probably the biggest decision I have ever had to make," he says. "There had been other chances in the past to move on but this time it was different."

"I can't pretend it had nothing to do with money, but really that wasn't what made it a difficult choice."

"And results didn't come into it either. It wouldn't have mattered if

we'd lost the UEFA Cup instead of winning it. All that mattered was what was best for me. I've created something at Ipswich and I would have been mad to move."

"I think it's also time there was a bit more stability about the game. Obviously I can't tell other clubs how to run their business. They have a right to decide for themselves what they want."

'Instability'

"But Lawrie McMenemy's decision to turn down Manchester United and stay at Southampton, like my own decision, is what I mean. There's too much instability about football and that applies right across the board."

Having solved the contract problems of star midfield men Frans Thijssen and John Wark, the Ipswich boss will start next season with the squad who ended that last one in style.

And if he gets the extra player he wants to give backbone to a squad littered with internationals, then don't be surprised if Ipswich take up that all-too-familiar position around the top of the table again.

ROBSON'S TRANSFER TARGET



Steve McCall (dark shirt) proved to be a more than able deputy for the injured Ipswich stars last season.



IT saddens me when I see youngsters coming to Molineux for trials who can't even kick a ball correctly. Teenagers who are dreaming of becoming professional footballers can't do the most basic acts of soccer.

They kick the ball with every part of the foot except the right part. They toe-punt it ... very few have a 'feel' for the ball that all kids should have.

Ten years ago, when I was thinking about leaving school, tactics were unheard of. In fact it wasn't until I'd been in the Dundee United side for six months that I was made fully aware of the tactical side of the game.

Now, too many schoolboys are taught tactics before skills. I see youngsters in the park on Sundays, even kids aged ten or 11, and their



"Too few schoolboy international players seem to make the grade at senior level."

'SCHOOLBOY SYSTEM IS ALL WRONG'

main concern is winning. At that age there should be only one reason for playing football and that's for sheer enjoyment.

All a young boy should concentrate on is being happy while he's playing and improving his skills. Everything else will come later.

My biggest failing when I was 14 was that I couldn't control the ball properly. I used to spend hours practising, but my idea of practice was simply to hit the ball into a goal.

Technique

Really, young boys shouldn't worry about anything but improving their technique. The trouble is they don't receive the help and encouragement they should.

It's difficult for a schoolmaster or manager of a Sunday side to spend time with the boys. Apart from playing they may have just one hour a week, which simply isn't enough.

I must be honest and say we, the professionals, don't always help, either. One of the unfortunate parts of televised football is that too many bad habits are seen and copied.

Impressionable youngsters see their heroes arguing or doing the wrong things, although in the heat of the moment it isn't easy to remember that millions of young



"Partick's Alex O'Hara seemed certain to become a top star as a young lad."

lads are watching.

I'm very cynical about schoolboy soccer. Too few schoolboy internationals make the grade and I wonder why this is. I believe 'politics' plays a major role, with certain schools or areas 'obliged' to have at least one player rather than the team being picked solely on merit.

There is also the case of Big being Beautiful ... a well developed

teenager will look good because of his strength, even against more skilled players. I know I was overlooked as a youngster for representative honours because I was too small.

I'm the only one of the Scottish schoolboys side who's really made the grade. I recall one player, in particular, Alex O'Hara, who seemed to have the world at his feet. He seemed certain to go on

and become a top star, especially when he signed for Rangers. Something, somewhere went wrong and he's now with Partick Thistle.

The truly great goalscorers ... Denis Law, Pele, Bobby Charlton and so on ... are born, not made. There wasn't anything about goal-scoring you could teach Denis Law. It was pure instinct.

While coaching CAN make an ordinary player better, it can have the opposite effect, when a coach is slow to spot a player's potential. I've seen players who are good coming forward being given the wrong role because the coach hasn't spotted the player's true strengths.

At the end of the day it's great players that are remembered the most. People talk about great teams, but it's the players who are remembered the most, which is why I'm all for the likes of Peter Barnes and Frank Worthington ... the individuals, the entertainers.

Join me again in a fortnight,

Andy Gray

A FIRST England cap at the age of 29 added the final polish to a glittering collection of silverware assembled by Peter Withe in the last few weeks of the season.

His first campaign with Aston Villa brought an international debut against Brazil at Wembley, a League Championship medal and a string of individual awards.

He was voted Midlands' Player of the Year by the region's soccer journalists (receiving the award on ATV from his former Nottingham Forest boss Brian Clough) and was also installed as Villa's Player of the Year.

More trophies followed when various Lions Club branches

season of 32 appearances in 1975-76.

Even now, he has actually played in only two full First Division campaigns: First with Nottingham Forest in 1977-78 and now with Aston Villa in 1980-81. "And I won a Championship medal each time," he says.

His first medal only led to disappointment when a dispute over terms prompted Forest to sell

him to Newcastle United for £250,000 before he had the chance to play in the European Cup.

"Regrets? Definitely not — I have never regretted what I have done. In any case, maybe Forest wouldn't have won the European Cup had I still been there. And I enjoyed my time in Newcastle.

"I had a rapport with the Newcastle fans. They had lived on centre-forwards like Milburn and Macdonald. My style is not the same and I didn't score so many goals, but the way I played must

'I'm not at my peak'

declares Aston Villa and England striker PETER WITHE

(Villa's satellite supporters' clubs scattered throughout the Midlands) named him as their man of the season.

And, finally, he tied with Spurs' Steve Archibald as the leading scorer in the First Division. Remember, this distinction applies to League games only. They each notched 20 goals, although Archibald finished with 25 to Withe's 21 in all games.

So, after serving ten clubs and 15 managers and travelling the globe to gain experience in South

have won the supporters over to me."

It was ambition, the thirst for more medals at top level, that made Peter Villa's record signing at £500,000. He could have gone to Everton, the club he supported when he was an apprentice electrician in Liverpool Docks. But he chose Villa "because I had to be sure any move was best for my hopes of winning more honours."

He added: "Everton were in a period of transition but Villa appeared to have the players they wanted to be successful. They had a settled blend in the squad and I was the addition.

"This is why I adjusted so quickly. You can add one or two players to an established side and they'll fit in quite well, but it's not easy if half the team changes overnight."

Peter immediately struck up an almost telepathic understanding with his 20-year-old partner Gary Shaw. They have a deep mutual respect for each other and it's not beyond the bounds of possibility that they could play together for England next season.

"I never gave up hope that I would play for England one day," says Peter. "But I never built up my hopes until it became official. I have learned in this game that you can end up on your backside if you believe in anything before it actually happens.

"Now that has come true, it is tremendous. All kids have ambitions. Mine were to play at Wembley, to play for my country and to win medals. And now I've made all three targets.

The future? "I'm sure that winning the title will be just the start for Aston Villa," he says. "Everything is similar to what happened at Forest and I think our present side is good enough to emulate Forest's triumphs in Europe."

Africa and the United States, Peter Withe suddenly finds himself reaching the peak of his career at a time when other players are often thinking they are past their best.

In fact, he claims he will only be peaking in the next two or three years. "Twenty-nine is not old for me," he argues. "I didn't get into the game as a professional until I was 20. I am still catching up and certainly hope to carry on until I'm 35."

Peter was 22 before he was introduced to the First Division by Wolves on the recommendation of Derek Dougan, who had played with him for Arcadia Shepherds in South Africa.

And he was 24 before Birmingham City flew him home from Portland Timbers to play in his first serious First Division



NEXT WEEK...

England Star RAY KENNEDY tells his own fascinating story from the time he was rejected by Port Vale to Championship and European Cup triumph with Liverpool.

Summer Stampede — a look at the managerial upheaval during the close season.

Maradona's \$10 million burden.

Why Scotland manager Jock Stein is smiling these days.



John Barnwell's ultimatum to Wolves.

Andy King's Nightmare.

Gary Shaw — Glad he didn't win a full England cap.

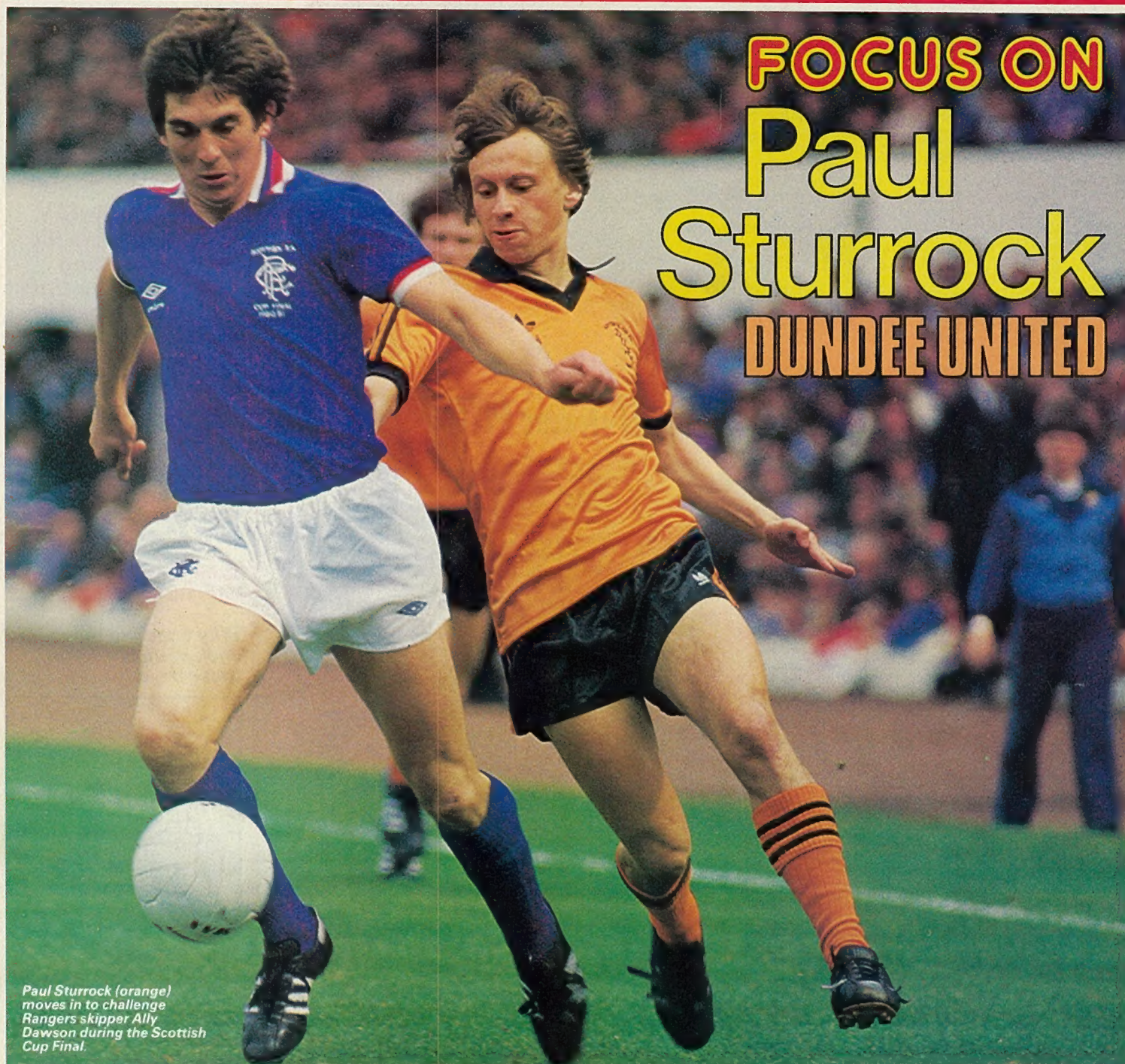
Interviews with new Brighton boss Mike Bailey . . . Alan Mullery now in charge at Charlton and Tottenham's recent signing Paul Price.

IN COLOUR

Aston Villa skipper Dennis Mortimer in a snappy mood + double page pin-up of Paul Mariner + Frank Stapleton (Arsenal) + Republic of Ireland Champions Athlone Town + Focus on Sunderland's Shaun Elliott.

All this and more in next week's SHOOT. The number one in football!

FOCUS ON Paul Sturrock DUNDEE UNITED



Paul Sturrock (orange) moves in to challenge Rangers skipper Ally Dawson during the Scottish Cup Final.

FULL NAME: Paul Whitehead Sturrock
BIRTHPLACE: Ellon, Aberdeenshire
BIRTHDATE: October 10, 1956
HEIGHT: 5ft 8ins
WEIGHT: 10st 8lbs
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Bankfoot (Juniors), Vale of Atholl and Grandtully Vale (amateurs)
MARRIED: Yes
CHILDREN: None
CAR: Opel Ascona
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Dundee Courier
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Johan Cruyff
MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: Derek Murray, our reserve left-back
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Heart of Midlothian
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: Jimmy Greaves
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Golf

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Jackie Copeland (St. Mirren)
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: The two most recent League Cup Finals
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing the Scottish Cup Final replay to Rangers
FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: Kilmarnock
FAVOURITE FOOD & DRINK: Steak, fruit and wine
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES AND DISLIKES: Watching football, eating out/Losing, being injured
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Rimini, Italy
FAVOURITE T.V. STAR: John Wayne
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Watching and helping minor grade football
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Average White Band, Earth, Wind & Fire

AFTER-MATCH ROUTINE: A good meal then a relaxing night watching TV
BEST FRIEND: My best man, David Hood
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Jim McLean and the backroom staff at Tannadice
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Scottish Youth, Under-21, and two full caps
PERSONAL AMBITION: To play as long as possible and to stay in the game when I retire
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? Haven't a clue
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Jimmy Greaves, ex-England and Spurs

Paul Sturrock